

# ENCIRCLE

SPRING 2012

**Addressing food access  
challenges at home  
& abroad**

**Gaining experience  
in serving the  
community**

**Also:**

- We have an app for that
- Student-athletes transforming lives
- Tough questions, expert answers

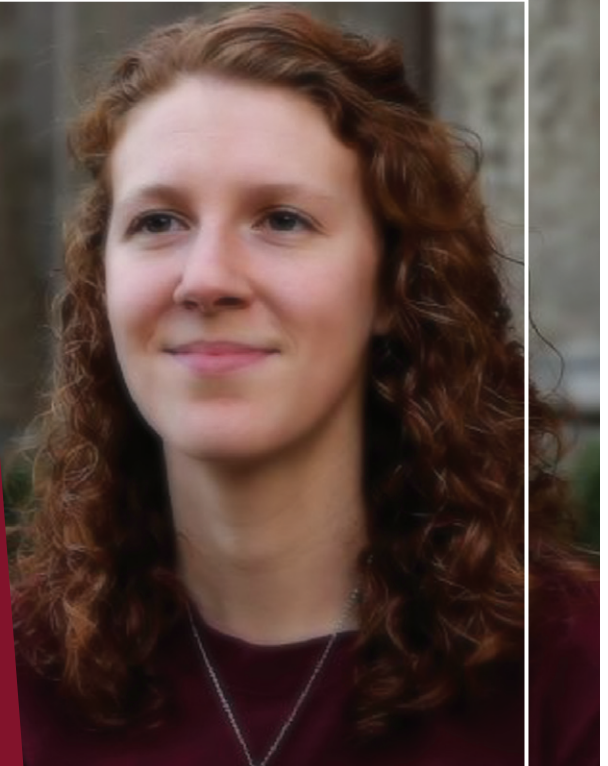
**Finding Meaning  
and LEADING  
Through Tragedy**

**From Black Hawk Down  
to Congresswoman Giffords**



# Meet Mellynn Baker

*Star Student.  
Scholarship Recipient.*



She is one of the 90% of Centenary students who receive scholarship support. As a senior political science major and native of Alexandria, Louisiana, Mellynn Baker '12 has had a great Centenary experience and is looking forward to calling herself an alumna.

Mellynn is smart. She knows that without scholarship support, she and many of her fellow students might not have been able to share in the Centenary experience. That's why she is excited about the **Million Dollar Scholarship**

**Challenge**, a new program that matches every donation through the end of June dollar-for-dollar up to \$500,000.

**Step up to the challenge:**  
**[centenary.edu/encircle](http://centenary.edu/encircle)**



***“The return on your  
investment will be the  
difference that every  
Centenary graduate  
makes in the world...  
which is priceless!”***







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# ENCIRCLE

Encircle is published by  
Centenary College of Louisiana  
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SPRING 2012

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ON THE COVER:  
Dr. John Holcomb '81 stands on Life  
Flight Helipad at University of Texas  
Memorial Hermann Hospital in  
Houston, Texas.

## 21st Century Global Challenges

In 2011, the Centenary faculty developed and approved an inquiry and action framework organized around three complex, global challenges of the 21st century. Commitment to meaningful engagement of these challenges through coursework, service opportunities, and intercultural experiences will position Centenary graduates to engage these challenges and lead in a changing world.



*"We believe integrative learning and applying that learning are necessities for our students."*

*— Centenary Faculty*

*"Our students will put their learning into action, not after they graduate, but from the moment they arrive on campus as first-year students. In that way, they will learn to effectively and creatively engage the world's challenges in order to help solve problems for the common good."*

*— Mike Hemphill,  
Centenary Provost and Dean of the College*

LEARN MORE AT [centenary.edu/challenges](http://centenary.edu/challenges)



## WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

As Louisiana's only Tier One National Liberal Arts College, Centenary has a special responsibility to encircle the world with wise, caring, moral leaders developed to engage the challenges of the 21st century.

*Encircle* tells the story of Centenary-educated doctors, lawyers, teachers, preachers, moms, dads, civic leaders, and citizens meeting the world's greatest needs. They do so with a knack for developing transformational personal relationships that change lives and change communities for the better. This knack was honed for these leaders by professors who invest personally to help each student find a pathway for linking a life purpose and personal passion with a soul-satisfying profession.

To prepare emerging leaders, Centenary faculty members are ensuring that each student engages and learns to respond to three global challenges of the 21st century:

- **LIVING A MEANINGFUL LIFE** – the challenge of growing into one's full potential with intentionality and an explicit

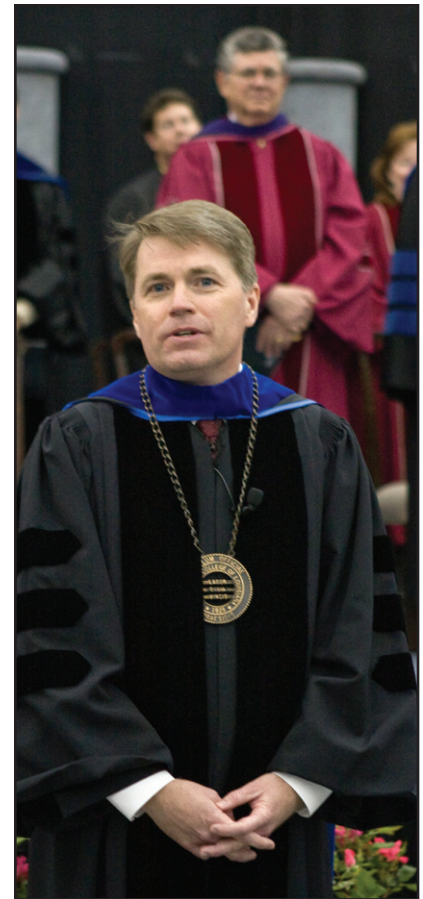
commitment to a set of values, beliefs and ideals that enables one to help others live up to their full potential as well.

- **EXPANDING CIRCLES OF RELATIONSHIP** – the challenge of living peacefully across the globe and promoting respectful engagement in an interconnected world.

- **LIVING A SUSTAINABLE LIFE** – the challenge of living with compassion and justice in a world of finite resources – being good stewards of those resources and relationships on this planet we call home.

The Centenary faculty is integrating living, learning, and leading into a meaningful, coherent, common Centenary educational experience – innovating beyond the traditional classroom learning experience.

In this edition of *Encircle*, engage a world facing complex challenges and learn how Centenary leaders are responding; engage a world in which the aftermath of senseless violence and fierce combat is met with innovative care and life-saving compassion; engage a world in which Centenary students and alumni build community to overcome both local and global food sustainability issues; and discover



*Dr. Rowe speaks at his inauguration while Dr. William G. Anderson '88, '09 LL.D. looks on.*

how Centenary's future leaders learn into action-based responses through our new Living Learning Communities.

Join Centenary on this trek to develop leaders for a changing world.

Take care,

B. David Rowe  
*President*



## FROM THE EDITORS

# WELCOME TO ENCIRCLE!

Graduates of Centenary College are making significant, positive impacts in their communities and around the world. Across multiple sectors and multiple continents, College alumni are pioneering and implementing life-saving practices in the health care field, helping to create innovative tools in technology, and doing their part, personally and professionally, to ease the burden of those less fortunate.

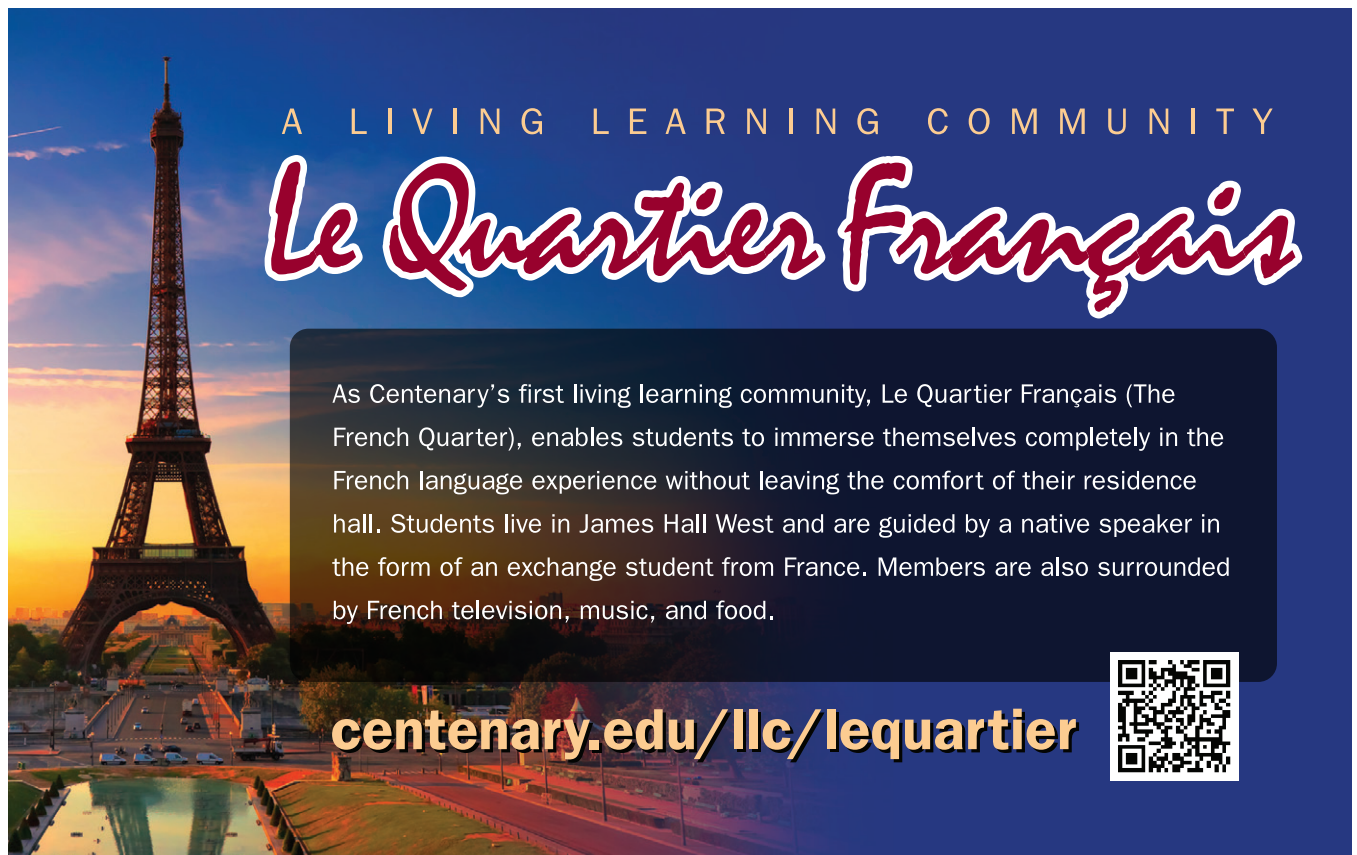
Through tailored academics and integrated living-learning experiences, Centenary is working today to prepare current students for similar success. By introducing students to these real-life learning opportunities, we're developing their potential to become the next generation of global leaders.

This is Centenary's most important story: the impact — both locally and globally — of the Centenary experience.

Taking a fresh, creative approach to this magazine provides the surest way to capture that story. If you've received our magazine in the past, you'll notice new content, refreshed features & layout, and even the innovative name, *Encircle*. We hope you like it. ■

*Matt Bailey*  
Matt Bailey

*Margo Shideler*  
Margo Shideler '03




A LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY

## Le Quartier Français

As Centenary's first living learning community, Le Quartier Français (The French Quarter), enables students to immerse themselves completely in the French language experience without leaving the comfort of their residence hall. Students live in James Hall West and are guided by a native speaker in the form of an exchange student from France. Members are also surrounded by French television, music, and food.

[centenary.edu/lc/lequartier](http://centenary.edu/lc/lequartier)





# MEANINGFUL LIFE

Our **challenge** is to identify and live intentionally our deeply held values, ideals and beliefs while respecting the values and beliefs of others.

By approaching the world with an open mind, we search for meaning and purpose. We must explore our passions, question assumptions, and strive toward our potential so as to help others live their potential as well.







# Santé

## A LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY

Within blocks of Centenary, people suffer from easily preventable diseases.

Why does this happen?

What can be done about it?

***More importantly, what are we going to do about it?***

Santé will partner with the community to improve the health of some of the least advantaged people and graduate students who are committed to improving global health and will prepare for careers of service, nationally or internationally.



**Centenary**  
COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA

[centenary.edu/llc/sante](http://centenary.edu/llc/sante)

## Living, Learning & Leading in Global Health

*By Matt Bailey and Patty Roberts '82*

**Gross health inequalities** exist among populations across the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that the world produces 17 percent more calories per person today than it did 30 years ago, more than enough to provide sufficient nutrition for the entire global population – even with a 70 percent population increase. Yet, up to a billion people in the world still go hungry every day.

*“a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”*

WHO defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” WHO believes that a high standard of health is a fundamental right of all humans regardless of race, nationality, religion, or economic or social status.

Achieving world health is a complex goal requiring individuals with multiple talents working together to produce innovative solutions. Obstacles include poverty, conflict, and climate change. Santé, a new Living Learning Community at Centenary, models this paradigm.

Students participating in Santé will partner with local and international groups to improve the health of the least advantaged now while preparing for careers of service. Each student will achieve minimal competency in four areas and choose one in which to specialize through his/her living-learning experience: 1) medical; 2) social scientific; 3) cultural; and 4) ethical. Further, the Santé faculty will work with students to develop essential character traits like wisdom and justice while building vital skills such as communication, organizing, and relationship-building.

Locally, Santé will collaborate with the Martin Luther King, Jr., Health Center, Louisiana's oldest free clinic and pharmacy. International opportunities will include partnering with Le Quartier Français to gain real-world, hands-on experience during a module in Les Cayes, Haiti. ■



# Discovering Meaning, On Purpose

By Valerie Robideaux '03

"What am I going to do with my life?"

Historically, this may be one of the most common questions for a college student. Asked with a sense of urgency and a genuine search for *the* answer, students have embarked on their college careers to find that one profession for the rest of their lives. What differentiates the students asking this question over time, however, is the culture and events of the period in which they live. These experiences render it necessary for higher education institutions to help students find the all important answers in new and tailored ways.

Since 2004, the millennial generation – the generation of social networking,

iPods and iPhones – has been entering the 21st century working landscape. Labeled as unsatisfied, entitled, and narcissistic job-hoppers, the millennial generation could be the convenient scapegoat for a complex and changing job market. For all the negative stereotypes about this generation, many positive attributes exist as well. The hyper-connection spurred by growing up with the Internet has fostered among millennials an enhanced awareness of the world around them, helping them develop a greater appreciation and tolerance of intercultural differences and diversity.

The dilemma is not as simple as a problem-child generation of newcomers. The job market has changed, and today's world is friendlier to someone with creativity and curiosity who can chart his or her own course. This reality necessitates an alternative model of career advising that emphasizes an awareness of self, world, and possibility. Luckily, this alternative model also complements the "entitled" and yet

globally conscious millennial student who plops down in a professor or staff member's office and sighs, "What am I going to do with my life?"

Living intentionally and meaningfully is a life-long pursuit that requires reflection, discernment, and action in each season of a person's life – from first-year college student, to first-time employee, to new parent, to grandparent, to retirement – from baby boomers to gen-xers to millennials. Living meaningfully requires self-awareness, global consciousness, and a desire to make a difference.

As Centenary values the education of the whole student, we seek to provide each student with the tools to discern how he or she can live a meaningful life in a finite, complex, and expanding world. Where do academic interest and training meet passion? Where does passion meet a need? How might individual strengths, skill sets, and knowledge translate into a profession that is meaningful life-work?

These are the questions Centenary students are asking and have been asking in corners across the campus for years. Centenary is now bringing this conversation to the surface as one of its core values and passions.

"So...what I am going to do with my life?" The Office of Professional Discernment works to get to know who students are, what they are interested in, what they are passionate about, and how they can make a difference. ■



Congratulations to  
**William Joyce**

Co-Director and  
Centenary Artist-in-Residence



**Brandon Oldenburg**

Co-Director

on winning an Academy Award  
for best animated short film

*The Fantastic Flying Books of  
Mr. Morris Lessmore*



Thank you for inspiring us  
to share our stories.

*Valerie Robideaux '03 is the director of the newly established Office of Professional Discernment. This office intentionally engages students in the exploration of meaningful life-work by guiding them in the integration of their strengths, passions, values, academic interests and career goals. Learn more at [centenary.edu/discernment](http://centenary.edu/discernment).*





# Finding Meaning and LEADING Through Tragedy

By Margo Shideler '03

Right: Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords begins her transit by ambulance to Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, Texas.  
2011 Getty Images



*Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords dead.*

NPR, CNN, and all three major networks reported the same story on January 8, 2011. That morning a deeply disturbed, lone gunman attacked a peaceful group of citizens who had gathered to meet their congressional representative. The horrific assault left six dead and 12 wounded, including Congresswoman Giffords, who was shot at close range in the head.

The gunshot wound easily could have been fatal for the congresswoman were it not for the employment of key medical interventions on the scene and later at the hospital. No one knows better than the doctors in charge of her care, including Centenary alumnus Dr. John Holcomb '81, how important the lifesaving techniques, often developed in combat zones, have become to trauma medical care.

Today, Holcomb serves as professor and chief of acute care surgery and director of the Center for Translational Injury Research at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth). He also is a trauma surgeon at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center. His current post follows on a nearly 30-year career in the United States Army, during which he held senior positions including commander of the U.S.



Army Institute of Surgical Research and trauma consultant for the Army Surgeon General. Holcomb has received numerous accolades from the military and civilian community for his work in trauma and combat care.

## A Centenary Gent Becomes a Soldier

In 1980, a young John Holcomb sat on a couch at the Theta Chi fraternity house, acceptance letter to medical school in hand and unanticipated challenge before him. "It absolutely never occurred to me how I was going to pay for medical school. For some reason, it was not an option to go into debt; it never occurred to me that I could borrow money," explained Holcomb. Confronted by that challenge and with a father who had served in the Army, Holcomb applied for and received a full scholarship from the Army's Health Professional Scholarship Program. "I went into debt for time," he says.



*Dr. John Holcomb '81 speaks at a press conference on Giffords' care. 2011 Getty Images*

The decision to trade his medical school expenses for service in the military would set the course of his career. He began his debt repayment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he worked closely with the military's elite special operations teams. Holcomb accompanied those highly trained soldiers to some of the world's most dangerous combat zones, including a deployment to Somalia in 1993 that would serve as the catalyst to Holcomb's research revolutionizing combat care.





Dr. Holcomb (right) and a colleague at the 46th Combat Support Hospital in Somalia.

## Finding Meaning through Tragedy

Holcomb motions to a framed photo on his bookshelf and, with complete composure, offers, "That was the front door of our hospital. If you saw the movie *Black Hawk Down*, we took care of the casualties up in that hospital." *Black Hawk Down* was the title of a novel and subsequent film detailing the Battle of Mogadishu, at the time one of the longest and bloodiest battles for U.S. troops since Vietnam; 18 servicemen were killed in the fighting, and more than 80 were injured.

In a pivotal and tragic event, one of the young soldiers Dr. Holcomb treated in Somalia succumbed to injuries due to massive blood loss. "He bled to death in my hands," Holcomb says, adding soberly, "It was horrible." After the experience, Holcomb turned his intense focus to finding ways to

more effectively stop bleeding on the battlefield. After Somalia, Holcomb says he went back to the States to "think and research for a year-and-a-half to two years."

The result of that reflective period? Holcomb and several colleagues succeeded in developing a revolutionary bandage specifically designed to slow or entirely stop blood flow from wounds: the hemostatic dressing. For the first time in thousands of years, soldiers began carrying something other than gauze to treat bleeding on the battlefield. As Holcomb succinctly puts it, "We've had gauze for 5,000 years — the Sumerians had gauze dressings." At a 2007 meeting of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the Orthopaedic Trauma Association, Holcomb presented findings showing how well hemostatic dressings were working: in 95 percent of cases where HemCon was used to treat combat injuries, the hemostatic dressing either improved hemostasis or completely stopped bleeding. In fact, the dressing worked 100 percent of the time when gauze failed. Today, hemostatic dressings are carried by all soldiers in the battlefield.

Beyond launching hemostatic dressings, Holcomb's research has enhanced the way tourniquets and intravenous methods are employed in trauma situations. Holcomb's work has undoubtedly made a meaningful impact in the lives of countless soldier and civilian patients, as well as in the medical research community. "What research sometimes does is allow people to step back and think, 'maybe there's something better,'" Holcomb says. "It allows people to free their brain."

## From the Military to Main Street

What many don't know is that trauma is the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 1 and 45 in the U.S.

## BY THE NUMBERS...

**1.7** million people sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI) annually

**#1** cause of death among people ages 1-45 in the United States is trauma

**30K** people die from injuries every year... one person every three minutes

More than 150,000 Americans die annually from trauma-related events.

Because trauma so critically affects young people, it also accounts for the highest number of life years lost. For example, if a 25-year-old dies in an accident, he or she will have lost more than 50 years of life. The societal impact of these



Dr. Holcomb (center) performs an operation.

statistics makes it even more important to specialists like Holcomb to ensure the hard-earned, life-saving lessons learned in warzones are passed on to the civilian world. Holcomb explains, "What is true about every war, every war has always improved the care of civilian trauma cases."



“What is true about every war, every war has always improved the care of civilian trauma cases.”

In the case of Congresswoman Giffords, lessons learned in military medicine undoubtedly helped save her life – the use of triage, paramedics, ambulances all originated on the battlefield. Two of the military's top trauma specialists oversaw her care: Dr. Peter Rhee in Tucson and Dr. Holcomb in Houston. But Holcomb sees a positive in the tragedy surrounding Giffords: it is bringing more attention to the importance of and need for exceptional trauma care.

He has certainly taken up this mantle in recent years. Since Holcomb joined the UTHealth and Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center – one of the university's primary teaching hospitals – in 2008, the trauma center's death rate has decreased by 30 percent. The hospital's air ambulance service, Life Flight, now transports blood to be used as emergency transfusions are needed.

Holcomb is also hard at work building a bridge between military and civilian medical communities. Over six years ago, Holcomb and a colleague pioneered a program – the Senior Visiting Surgeon Program – to bring senior civilian surgeons and their expertise to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Located in Germany, the center is the largest American hospital for U.S. soldiers outside of the United States. What has been interesting for Holcomb is seeing not only the ways skilled surgeons are sharing lessons with military doctors but also that “there were a lot of lessons military surgeons were teaching very experienced civilian surgeons.”

In addition, Holcomb is working to make certain that innovative research being conducted in laboratories is making it to clinical settings. As the director of the Center for Translational Injury Research, he drives innovative research projects focused on trauma care and ensures the life-changing results of the research make it out of the lab and to the patient's bedside.

So what according to one of the world's leading trauma surgeons is next? Dried blood. “With a few exceptions, blood products we use haven't changed much since the 1940s. Over the next 10 years, we're going to see dried blood products that can be stored at room temperature, at the point of care,” Holcomb explains. “In 10 years, we'll have a little vial of dried plasma. Just add water and inject it.” We're confident, if he has anything to say about it, this innovation will make it to the bedside sooner rather than later.

## The Centenary Experience of a Trauma Surgeon

Thumbing through his senior yearbook, Holcomb recalls fondly his time spent in the Theta Chi house, eating burgers at Murrell's, and playing pool at Pizza King on quarter beer night.

One of his favorite memories occurred in Mickle Hall, where he spent many late nights studying. Then-Biology Professor Brad McPherson called Holcomb into his office to show him a novel piece of equipment: the computer. The professor and student discussed how the device might be used, and Professor McPherson prophetically concluded, “I don't know, but I think it's going to be big.”

When asked what advice he might offer a student looking to fully leverage the Centenary experience, Holcomb again calls on a Professor McPherson memory, “What he taught, which I think was important, is not rote memorization, but to learn how to learn.” Holcomb suggests capitalizing on the small class sizes and the benefits they afford. “The most important thing is learning how to learn, and having routine, significant interaction with professors.” ■

“The most important thing is learning how to learn...”



*A group of Centenary Theta Chi's, including Holcomb (fourth from left), during the 1980-81 school year.*





# Touching Lives, BEATING THE ODDS

By Dena Pruett

More than 10,000 patients in the U.S. are diagnosed with life-threatening diseases such as leukemia or lymphoma every year.



Of these patients, 70 percent in need of a transplant do not have a matching donor in their family. If the patient is from a diverse racial and ethnic background, the percentage of potential adult donors is 10 or below compared to 74 percent for Caucasian patients.

To offset these grim odds, the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) and the Be the Match Foundation operate the world's largest and most diverse registry of potential marrow donors and donated cord blood units. Since 1987, the NMDP has facilitated more than 43,000 marrow, peripheral blood stem cells, and cord blood transplants for patients through unrelated donors.

In February 2012, the Shreveport-Bossier LifeShare Blood Center, an affiliate of NMDP, and the Centenary College men's basketball team joined forces to boost the chances that a local 9-year-old boy would find a potentially life-saving bone marrow match.

Two years ago, Sir Terrence Mack was diagnosed with Natural Killer T-cell Lymphoma when his mother took him to the doctor for what she believed to be a simple cold. This type of lymphoma is not only rare but almost unheard of for someone of African-American descent. He received chemotherapy and radiation treatments, but the key to his treatment was to find a matching bone marrow donor.

Following his diagnosis, Sir Terrence was invited to serve as honorary team captain at several Centenary basketball games. Once an avid basketball player, the illness sapped his energy to play. The men's basketball team wanted to do more for the young boy, so they organized a bone marrow drive during their home game on February 11.

"Sir Terrence deserves a chance to continue to fight his lymphoma," said Adam Walsh, head men's basketball coach. "We hope that our efforts to raise awareness and encourage bone marrow donor registrations help find him a match."

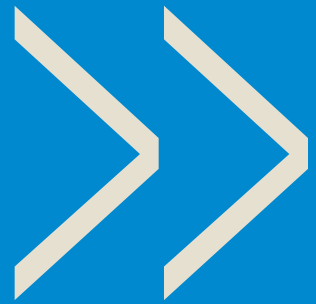
Since the donor drive, a bone marrow match has been found, and Sir Terrence's treatment will continue. Sir Terrence's mother, Wadell Hayes, is hopeful.

"It means a lot to me. He just wants to have a normal life again – to go back to school and do things with his brothers."

For information on how to become a donor, visit [marrow.org/join](http://marrow.org/join). ■

# EXPANDING CIRCLES

Our **challenge** is to expand our circle to promote respectful engagement with a broader world. In the 21st century, not everyone shares the same values or experiences, and conflict exists. Through exploration and discussion of our differences, we must work to create the common ground necessary to build peaceful, just, and mutually beneficial relationships.



# GLOBAL CHALLENGES, LOCAL NEEDS

By Matt Bailey and Dena Pruett

**Centenary is expanding its circle of influence and compassion** into the Highland neighborhood and surrounding community through service and leadership. Highland is one of Shreveport's most diverse neighborhoods, with a mix of socioeconomics and racial diversity. The area shares many of the same challenges found elsewhere in America and across the globe.



*Students play with local children on the 2012 MLK Day of Service.*

Poverty, education, health care, and the environment continue to be issues of concern in the area Centenary calls home. In the 2011 Community Counts study issued by the Community Foundation of North Louisiana, Shreveport was ranked within a group of eight peer communities in the South on a range of civic indicators. It ranked seventh for poverty, eighth for K-12 education, and sixth for both health care and air and water quality.

Centenary has worked to address the greatest need of its surrounding area throughout its history. Founded in 1825 by the governor at the time as the College of Louisiana, it was designed to educate leaders in the liberal arts to become problem-solvers. This tradition of actively engaging challenges continues with Centenary students, faculty, and staff leading the way.

## Serving in a BIG Way

The BIG Event is a student-led day of service during which members of the Centenary community work to beautify the surrounding neighborhoods and give back to Shreveport.

**"The BIG Event gives us an opportunity to give back to the community that has become our home."**

**Pryton Bannon '13**

Centenary students, faculty, staff, and alumni have come together every spring for the past five years. Volunteers have the opportunity to choose from various helpful activities, including exterior home improvement, basic landscaping, and inside services. Members of the Shreveport-Bossier community, including local high schools students, also pitch in to volunteer both in teams and

as individuals. The results are transformative for the neighborhood as well as the lives touched in the process.

"The BIG Event is important to me and other students because



it gives us an opportunity to give back to the community that has fostered Centenary's development and become our home," said junior Payton Bannon, who coordinated media for the 2012 BIG Event. "It is a great way for us to unite as a campus for the single purpose of helping out our neighbors."

At Centenary, the BIG Event has had over 200 volunteers participate every year since its inaugural run in 2008. A national cause, the BIG Event is considered the largest, one-day, student-run service project in the U.S. Its ongoing success has been instrumental in garnering local and national recognition for the College. Centenary has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for each of the six years since the recognition program began. The Honor Roll recognizes

*continued* ➔



*A Centenary student sands a bookcase at the Highland Center in Shreveport.*

## TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCES: DREAM WEEK & DIVERSITY EDUCATION

*By Chris Lavan '06*

At Centenary College, we seek to transform lives for the transformation of the world, an aim embraced and advanced by our President, Dr. David Rowe. One vehicle for this transformation started a little over four years ago when a group of concerned faculty and staff members along with a few students gathered to increase awareness about diversity among members of the College community. The group sought to support those members of the Centenary community whose voices might unintentionally be lost in the hustle and bustle of campus life.

Under the leadership of then-chair Dr. Kelly Weeks, Diversity Committee members decided that the best way to teach students about diversity and the civil rights movement was to combine service to the community with opportunities to listen to perspectives from proponents



*Phoebe Ferguson (left) and Keith Plessy (center) pose with Dr. Kelly Weeks and Centenary students.*

of diversity and transformation. Hence, Dream Week, a week set aside to remember the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was born.

Since its inception, Dream Week has grown into an event that students as well as community members look forward to each year. Performances and featured speakers open the window to the civil rights movement and the legacy of Dr. King in a way that no textbook can:

- ▶ visiting speakers such as this year's guests, Keith Plessy and Phoebe Ferguson, descendants of the key individuals involved in the 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson civil rights case;
- ▶ musical performances like 2011's "The Hallelujah Train" led by Pastor Brady Blade, Sr., his son, Centenary alumnus Brady Blade, Jr., and the Zion Baptist Church Choir; and,
- ▶ community service through our MLK Service Day which organizes current Centenary students, faculty, staff and alumni together with community members to make a positive change in local elementary schools and non-profit organizations in the Highland area.

These opportunities are important, as diversity at Centenary is a continuing and evolving conversation. Our focus is to continually move forward together, as a campus community, to celebrate our differences. ■

*Chris Lavan '06 serves as the College's Director of Global Engagement.*





*Centenary students and an alumna assist a Highland neighbor with yardwork at the BIG Event 2012.*

institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their community.

“Centenary students are passionate about service and giving back to the community,” said Chris Lavan, director of global engagement. “Our presence on this list is a testament to their willingness to live, lead, and learn through action. As our service opportunities continue to expand on a local and global scale, Centenary’s name will become synonymous with students who give above and beyond themselves for the good of others.”

### Intentional Experiences

Students’ voluntary participation in large-scale service projects such as the BIG Event and MLK Service Day often helps fulfill the community component of Centenary’s Trek Program. Trek contributes to a meaningful and impactful Centenary experience by developing each student’s potential to engage the world’s

challenges. Culture and career experiences are the two other components of the program which promote career and graduate school preparation, intercultural engagement, and civic involvement.

“Centenary students  
are passionate  
about service and  
giving back...”

Chris Lavan '06

The Office of Global Engagement spearheads many of these opportunities in collaboration with professors and student groups. Centenary faculty and staff members lead students in integrated learning opportunities by guiding them through intentional reflection on cultures different from their own, service to their communities, and diverse perspectives that enhance their view of the complex and ever-changing world.

Through these intentional experiences, students develop their potential as compassionate global leaders by actively addressing the needs of their community. ■

Learn more at [centenary.edu/trek](http://centenary.edu/trek)  
and [centenary.edu/globalengagement](http://centenary.edu/globalengagement)



# WE HAVE AN APP FOR THAT

By Dena Pruett

Smartphones are changing the way we communicate. Of the world's 4 billion mobile phones in use, 1.08 billion are smartphones. People across the globe connect through text messaging, social networking sites, and blogs – wherever and whenever.

The popular appeal of smartphones has led to the rise of the app – application software designed to perform specific tasks. Many apps are enabling users to become confident global citizens with a simple click of a button. Lost in a new city? Need a translator while visiting Spain? There is an app for that. Apps that are created purely for entertainment purposes have value as well as they push the technology forward, paving the way for more intuitive capabilities.

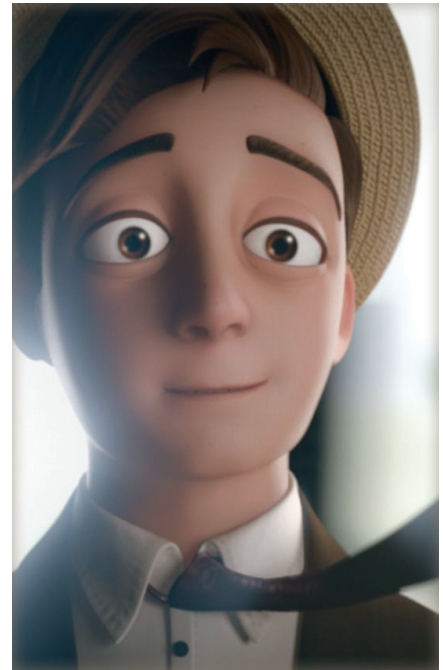
Several Centenary faculty members, alumni, and students have been at the forefront of this cutting-edge technology.

A group of students, alumni, and faculty developed Pherophone, an Android application that lets users leave time-sensitive messages at specific GPS coordinates for others to find. Working on the project were Jacob Jennings '12, Kathryn Hardey '12, and Dr. Mark Goadrich. From that beginning, the members of the group have contributed their talents to Twin Engines Lab and Moonbot Studios.

The *Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore* app from Moonbot Studios is an interactive, narrative experience about people who devote their lives to books and books who return the favor. The app has won numerous

awards, and Centenary students Nolan Baker '10 from Moonbot Studios and Jacob Jennings from Twin Engines Lab assisted in the programming and development. In February 2012, *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore* won an Oscar at the Academy Awards for Best Animated Short Film.

The Numberlys is the second story app from Moonbot Studios and presents a



fanciful depiction of the origins of the alphabet. Nolan Baker and junior math major Jackson Blankstein '13, who is interning at Moonbot, assisted in the production of the app. Baker and Blankstein both worked on programming with Baker also taking part in the designing.

"I came to Centenary having always had an interest in programming but never actually pursuing it. With Dr. Goadrich's help, I have achieved more than I ever thought possible," said Blankstein. "The Numberlys is the first app that I have ever worked on, and it was surreal when the app was sent off to Apple."

Seniors Jacob Jennings and Kathryn Hardey are interns at Twin Engines Lab. Twin Engines Lab has developed various apps, including American Songwriter, Cisco Avantgarde, ZeneScene, CRM, and the social polling app Copinionation. Nolan Baker also spent time at Twin Engines Lab assisting with ZeneScene and Copinionation. ■

## BY THE NUMBERS...

**43** percent of U.S. adults have apps on their phones and 2/3 use them regularly

**82** percent of adults are active cell phone users

**300K** mobile apps have been developed in just three years

**11 BILLION** is the number of times the most popular apps have been downloaded





# Encircling the World

By Patty Roberts '82



Centenary College Choir visited Brazil in 2011.

## The world is more connected now than it has ever been.

But for the majority of the global population, experiencing a different culture – in person rather than online or through television – remains difficult if not impossible because of obstacles like time and money. Many people living today will never have the opportunity to live as part of a culture different from their own. They will likely never influence others or be influenced in their own lives by the power of such an experience.

Despite greater global connectedness facilitated by technological advances, intercultural differences and the conflicts and misunderstandings those differences foster persist. Engaging the challenge of this expanding world requires addressing the question of how to live peaceably and well with others across cultures, countries, and beliefs – a question best addressed by those with direct international and intercultural experiences. Generations of Centenary students have the Choir to thank for their first look at a larger world.

The Centenary Choir has remained a vibrant, active organization for more than 70 years due in large part to its enduring traditions, many of them established by the Choir's founder, A. C. "Cheesy" Voran. Practices such as wearing CHOR shirts (there is no "I" in CHOR) identify affiliation to those outside the group and connect members coming from diverse backgrounds and academic majors. The power of tradition to unite across generations was movingly demonstrated during the 70th anniversary celebration at Rhapsody in View last November when alumni members joined the Choir on stage to perform.

## *The Encircle Tradition*

At the end of each concert, the Choir forms a circle around the audience and sings:

*"The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,  
And give you peace."*

These words are the Priestly Blessing found in scripture. In Numbers 6:24-26, the Lord instructed Moses to have Aaron and his sons use this prayer to bless the children of Israel. Because the Hebrew word for "keep" ("shamar") is literally translated as "to guard" and a related word, "shamiry," means "thorn," the "keep you" in the English translation can be read as "guard you with a hedge of protection." Encircling the audience movingly expresses this expanded translation.

The tradition of encircling an audience and singing the Priestly Blessing dates to the choir's first Russian tour in 1979. Dr. Will Andress invented the "tradition" as a way of circumventing the Russian prohibition of sacred music in the Choir's performances. Hosts were told that the Choir customarily encircled concert hosts and thanked them with this song, which also happens to be the traditional benediction for the United Methodist Youth Fellowship.





**Left:**  
*The Choir performs at Carnegie Hall in New York City in February 2012.*

**Middle:**  
*Members of the Choir stand with the sole surviving tree from the World Trade Center complex.*

**Bottom:**  
*Choir members visited the 9/11 Memorial while in New York in 2012.*



Another tradition, the mandate for Centenary College Choir members to serve as musical ambassadors promoting the school, is well known, but Choir members are also urged “to travel and learn about the world in which we live.” The Choir’s most recent international trip took members and guests to Brazil and Argentina. Between performances, the group found opportunities to explore their surroundings. An encounter during their visit to the Christ the Redeemer statue atop Corcovado mountain overlooking Rio de Janeiro provided an inspirational moment.

“As we were viewing the statue, we had an impulse to surround the base of the statue and sing ‘The Lord Bless You and Keep You,’ like we do at the end of our concerts,” explained Choir member Sarah Merino. “Only a few people stood nearby as we started; but, as we sang, the crowd grew, and the music united us. It was a moving demonstration of music as the universal language.”

The Christ the Redeemer statue, with its outstretched arms, serves as a symbol of peace. The Choir explored this subject musically at Carnegie Hall on February 20 when choirs from around the country joined for the premiere performance of composer and alumnus James Eakin’s ‘00 *Flowers Over the Graves of War*, a work composed to be a call for peace in a time of war. The Choir has visited New York a number of times since its initial trip to the Big Apple in 1961 to sing at Radio City Music Hall. ■



Learn more at [centenary.edu/choir](http://centenary.edu/choir)





# The Global Brain of Social Media

By JR Ramsey '10

One hundred billion.

This is the number of neurons in the human brain. One hundred billion individual cells interconnected via a web of connectors constantly interacting and sending impulses to each other. If one hundred billion cells can communicate collectively, how difficult can it be for a mere seven billion individuals on the planet to influence each other individually or en masse? With technology rapidly advancing and the advent of social media, society is shifting toward a semblance of interconnected neurons within a global collective brain.

Throughout modern history, social movements have attempted to shift governmental policies and right social injustices. Social media has bred a new kind of social movement. Within the past four years, people have utilized

social media for everything from inciting popular uprisings against authoritarian regimes to raising \$55 million in less than one month for a presidential campaign.

On September 17, 2011, almost 200 people camped out in Zucotti Park in New York City. Due to thousands of tweets and Facebook posts crying out for change, the Occupy Movement now encompasses hundreds of movements in areas all over the globe. Across the Arab world, the Arab Spring uprisings gained momentum quickly via social media despite Internet censorship and other attempts at repression.

These protests are a different species of activism, not in implementation or intention, but in speed of formation and reach. Thanks to Twitter, Facebook, and the many other forms of social media, individuals can spark debate and activism around the globe with the touch of a button.

Historically, the "global brain" suffered from having few neurons (newspapers, radio, and television) sending signals to the masses, and social movements were sluggish. Now, with the strong web of connectors created by social media, each neuron (individual) has the ability to influence everyone within the collective – firing off signals at rapid speeds. The new global human neural network creates waves of action communicating problems of the whole and stimulating social change. ■

Connect with Centenary at  
[centenary.edu/connect](http://centenary.edu/connect)

**NODE**

A Living Learning Community using **technology, design, & media** for **social change**

Social technologies connect citizens to information, to other citizens, and to resources. In recent national and international events, including Occupy Wall Street, these technologies have empowered people.

Node will arrive in Fall 2012.

[centenary.edu/llc/node](http://centenary.edu/llc/node)

# SUSTAINABLE WORLD

Our **challenge** is to develop sustainable lifestyles and appreciate the natural environment in ways that do not compromise the capacity of future generations to satisfy their needs. We must learn how to lead a sustainable life, work to devise solutions to problems that use our planet's resources wisely, and create sustainable, just, and compassionate systems.





# An Oasis in the Food Desert

By Angie White '93

The American way of life is being compromised by the high and growing incidence of chronic, degenerative diseases like diabetes, hypertension, and high cholesterol.

These diseases take the highest toll on Americans living in poverty, who may not have the financial or educational means to address them, and are becoming an increasing menace among American youth populations. If this trend continues, the health care crisis we think we are facing now will grow to epic proportions and become unsustainable.

Sustainability can have many different meanings, depending on the context. We hear it most often these days in discussions about the environment. In this case, the Environmental Protection Agency's definition is an appropriate example:

*Sustainability is based on a simple principle: Everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment.*



A group of children stands in front of the Valencia Youth Garden in Shreveport, LA.

*Sustainability creates and maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations.*

There is a relatively new term being used in food and health care circles that many claim to be one of the factors behind our health care and chronic disease crisis. The term is "food desert," and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, these are "areas that lack access to affordable fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat milk, and other foods that make up the full range of a healthy diet." Studies suggest that individuals who live in food deserts are at a higher risk for health problems because of a lack of access to those food items that are required for a healthy diet.

In Caddo Parish, Centenary's home, there is a food desert within a couple of miles of campus in the Stoner Hill neighborhood. But in this neighborhood, something special is happening. In 2009, the LSU AgCenter and the City of Shreveport came together to create a community garden next to the city-run Valencia Community Center. Their initial hope was that the seniors from the Stoner Hill neighborhood that frequented the Community Center would be reminded of their younger days when home gardens were not unusual, and they would pass on their knowledge and love of gardening to the youth at the Center. But in fact, it was the youth that turned this project into the huge success it has become.





As of summer 2011, the Valencia Youth Garden and Urban Farm boasts a garden with 26 beds, a quarter-acre urban farm, blackberries, and an orchard with young fig, pear, and persimmon trees. The garden area serves as a teaching aid for the FIT for Kids youth program, while the Urban Farm provides education to young teenagers in the areas of nutrition, horticulture, and entrepreneurship. The Valencia Urban Youth Farmers have developed a neighborhood farmer's

market selling produce to the surrounding community and Wine Country Bistro, a local fine-dining restaurant that is committed to supporting local farms.

To see these children in their garden, beaming with pride to show visitors their vegetables, eager to learn how to cook them (and sometimes not able to wait and eating them raw), is like watching a miracle. Go see them; you'll get it. THIS is the kind of effort that will deliver a sustainable American culture.

To learn more about the Valencia Youth Garden and Urban Farm, visit [louisiana-communitygardens.wordpress.com](http://louisiana-communitygardens.wordpress.com) where you can see some pretty fantastic videos made by the youth gardeners, or you can find them on Facebook. ■

*Angie White '93 is a vice president at the North Louisiana Economic Partnership and the outgoing chair of the North Louisiana chapter of Slow Food USA.*

## BY THE NUMBERS...

**3.2%** of all U.S. households live between half to one mile from a supermarket and do not have access to a vehicle

**10%** of the U.S. population lives in a food desert (about 23 million people)

**22%** of households in low income urban areas living half to one mile from a supermarket have no access to a vehicle

**4.4%** of households in rural areas live more than one mile from the supermarket AND do not have access to a vehicle





## STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

# Centenary Renewal

→ [centenary.edu/renewal](http://centenary.edu/renewal)

By Drew Burnham '12

## It is an exciting time to be a Centenary student!

During the past year, Centenary has been undergoing a transformation in several ways. In academics, Centenary has seen widespread success with the various Living Learning Communities. In athletics, the Ladies and Gents have had numerous winning streaks, broken records, and placed our programs on the right track for long-term success. The infrastructure of the College has also seen numerous projects aimed at fixing issues that have developed over our long history and providing upgrades that will greatly improve our quality of life here in the residence halls, the classrooms, and elsewhere on campus.

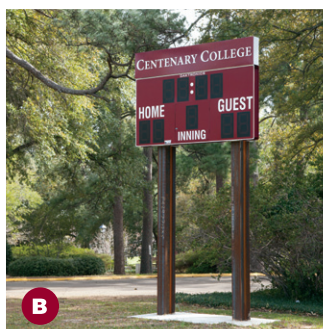
There have been several renovations to air conditioning and heating, water supply, and lighting systems to make them more dependable and energy efficient. The lighting around campus has greatly improved,

making our campus feel even more secure. Emergency exits and fire code issues have been addressed, sidewalks fixed and put in, and residence halls refitted for the Living Learning Communities. These improvements and many more may not be noticed by students every day, but are crucial for the happiness, comfort, and safety of those on campus.

Improvements which are more readily noticed and appreciated by us students have also been going on. A new pavilion and scoreboard have been added on Jones-Rice multi-purpose field near the volleyball court. These additions will instantly introduce a better intramural experience as well as provide a platform for carnivals, barbeques, and other events. In addition to the widespread painting and new flooring, renovations to restrooms, suites, classrooms, and labs have all met with students' approval and appreciation.

One of the most exciting modernizations in the Centenary Renewal has been the installation and activation of the key card entry program. This improvement allows students to more easily and safely access their dorms and not risk losing expensive keys. Many of the improvements have been behind-the-scenes for most students. While they may not notice them outright, these renovations ensure for years to come the ability of students to learn in a well-equipped classroom, to live in a comfortable dorm, and to feel safe and secure everywhere on campus.

These projects, coupled with the readily visible additions to the campus, have made the Centenary Renewal a success. ■



**A:** A newly constructed pavilion graces Jones-Rice field.

**B:** A scoreboard has been erected on Jones-Rice field.

**C:** A state-of-the-art lab in the newly renovated Mickle Hall.

**D:** New lighting helps illuminate campus at night.

**E:** New seating enhances Marjorie Lyons Playhouse

**F:** The College installed new boilers and coolers in late 2011.





## BY THE NUMBERS...

**5.5** million dollars invested for an immediate transformational impact on campus

**12** campus buildings now heated & cooled by new, efficient boilers & chillers

**58** exterior campus light fixtures with energy efficient bulbs installed

**30** plus projects completed or planned to foster an even more inviting place to live, learn, and lead

# GREENHOUSE

a sustainability  
living learning  
community

**GreenHouse** is open to students who are interested in environmental issues and sustainability. GreenHouse students live and study together through team-taught learning labs, service learning and internship opportunities, and special events.



GreenHouse is open to students of any major who are in good academic standing.

Learn more about GreenHouse:  
[centenary.edu/llc/greenhouse](http://centenary.edu/llc/greenhouse)

# A Community of Practice

By Dena Pruett



QR CODE

**"The community garden is standing on land that no one thought was useful ..... We make something positive and productive out of what people have just thrown away. This is a way of life for me."**

## GreenHouse is Centenary's second Living Learning Community.

When it opened in fall 2011, there was far more student demand to participate than there was space available. Dr. Jeanne Hamming, associate professor of English and live-in faculty leader of the program saw this as students' desire to make a difference.

"When I talk to students about this initiative, what I keep hearing is that they want to be part of a real community, and they want to do something," said Dr. Hamming.

Students in GreenHouse develop and lead their own sustainability-related projects. The goal is to create a community of practice, an environment in which individuals with like interests come together to share experiences, learn from each other, and develop personally and intellectually in the process. Through a shared passion for sustainability, Centenary students are challenging and teaching each other just as they learn from and are challenged by their professors.

"The community garden is standing on land that no one thought was useful, and our compost bins are made from scraps that we collected," explained Bonnie Bernard '13. "We make something positive and productive out of what people have just thrown away. This is a way of life for me."

Chemistry major and GreenHouse resident Bernard is passionate about sustainability. Last spring, before the sustainability-focused living-learning community began, Bernard and a group of fellow students broke ground on Centenary's community garden along with Professors Troy Messina, David Stafford, and Jeanne Hamming.

Talk of a community garden had existed for years before Bernard decided to work with Dr. Messina and build the garden to fulfill her Trek community credit. Though the garden was not initially affiliated with GreenHouse, the students have adopted the garden as part of a larger composting project.

Due to their efforts, Centenary now has two compost tumblers and a traditional three-bin system to collect waste. The tumblers and bin break down green material such as vegetable waste and brown material like paper and leaves to create compost. The waste will be collected from the Dining Hall, composted, and fed to the garden for nourishment.

GreenHouse uses the fruits and vegetables from the garden to make soups and salads for community meals. Due to the short shelf life of the fresh produce, students move the food from soil to sink to stovetop within 24 hours. ■



*Bonnie Bernard '13 opens a compost bin at the campus community garden.*



# ENGAGE

In the following pages, we invite you to engage with the Centenary community. Explore how Centenary alumni are making their way in the world and staying connected – often over multiple generations – to the College. Gain insight on today's most pressing issues from our expert faculty. See how Centenary athletes are not only succeeding in their sports, but leading in the community as well. Learn about upcoming events and the time-honored traditions being celebrated at Centenary.

*Read on and engage with us!*



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# 5 ALUMNI | 5 QUESTIONS

We asked  
5 alumni  
5 questions  
about their  
Centenary  
experience.



**Joe Ben LaGrone '61**

Major: History  
Work: President, The Socogee Corporation  
City: Oak Ridge, TN



**Rebecca Soskin Hicks '02**

Major: Biology  
Work: Pediatrician  
City: San Jose, CA



**Jeff Everson '01**

Major: Business Admin., Economics  
Work: Project Manager;  
City Councilman  
City: Shreveport, LA



**Glenn Hilburn '51**

Major: Divisional Major in Natural Sciences  
Work: Retired Professor & Chair, Dept. of Religion, Baylor Univ.  
City: Woodway, TX



**Tamika Sims '98**

Major: Liberal Arts  
Work: Gymnastics Coach, The Wendy Hilliard Foundation; front desk, dentist office  
City: New York City, NY

<b>1. Describe Centenary in five words or less.</b>	Enlightening, challenging, demanding, broadening, rewarding.	Comfortable, exciting, demanding, pleasant, lively.	Small size creates large impact.	Catalytic womb birthing student-leaders.	The best college experience.
<b>2. What is something you would like people outside of the Centenary community to know about the College?</b>	The quality of professors, student accessibility to them, depth and breadth of programs, and its demonstrated record of educating future leaders and other successful individuals.	It is easier to get involved at a small college like Centenary. My successes in leadership activities gave me the confidence to pursue leadership roles on a bigger scale in medical school and in residency training at Stanford.	How active and motivated the student body is. Students at Centenary give a lot of their time and energy outside of the classroom to ensure the campus community has opportunities and enjoys a tremendous range of amenities.	That it is the oldest liberal arts college west of the Mississippi River (founded in 1825).	Being required to live on campus helps to create strong bonds, not just with a small circle of friends but the entire community becomes your circle, from the students to the cafeteria workers to the professors to the library staff.
<b>3. What advice would you give a student starting Centenary in the fall?</b>	Find a mentor who's well grounded; set your priorities; learn your professors as well as subject matter, have some fun but not at the expense of sacrificing a quality education.	Join a lot of extracurricular activities and get involved! A wide variety of experiences in college will help you stay well rounded no matter what your focus of study is.	Be open minded. With a small student body, you may find yourself getting to know and love people you may not have interacted with during your high school years. The same is true for subject matter.	Establish good time management and study habits.	Never be afraid to ask questions or give your honest opinion. Study hard but have lots of fun in the process.
<b>4. What was your favorite hang-out spot during your College years?</b>	Murrell's on Kings Highway (down the street from Centenary) which was the home of tasty, greasy burgers and fries and a gathering place for stimulating discussions.	I spent most of my down time at the library and the fitness center. I still miss the fitness center...it was such a nice, open space to exercise in!	My favorite spot on campus was at the swings on the porch outside of Bynum Commons. We would sit on that deck to study, chat, pass time, people watch, and just enjoy the beautiful campus.	Haynes Gymnasium where I was head athletic trainer and equipment manager.	My favorite was the porch of James Hall. You could see everyone coming and going. And my residents always knew where to find me. (I was a Resident Assistant).
<b>5. Tell us about a favorite Centenary memory</b>	Dr. Earle Labor's course in American Intellectual History. It gave me a totally different and permanent set of lenses for viewing people, politics, economics, religion, social issues, the arts, and literature.	Studying with a classmate in microbiology lab, I couldn't get my slide into focus. He leaned over to help me. I knew he was someone special. He's now my wonderful husband!	Despite loving Microeconomics, I was often late for the 8am class. Dr. Hoaas once called me, in front of the whole class, to ensure I would be joining them. I wasn't late again and still use my notes to this day.	My selection for membership in Omicron Delta Kappa, National Leadership Honor Society, 1951.	One of my favorite memories is sitting in the SUB watching Herbert Lang win the NCAA Slam Dunk competition, especially with him giving us a shout out when he won.

# A YEAR OF Impact

By Adam Walsh

**Our student-athletes' involvement** in community outreach is one of the most beneficial parts of being a Centenary College athlete. They learn what it means to be a servant-leader and how giving back can influence continuous giving for a lifetime of fulfillment.

Being an athletic department at a college undergoing remarkable transformation, we prepared for the 2011-2012 school year with equal amounts of excitement, expectation, and a little bit of nervousness. As we have competed on the fields and courts, we have seen some great success stories we are all very proud of, both on and off the field.

Our fall sports, Soccer, Volleyball, and Cross Country, all had strong starts, which set the tone for the rest of our department. Multiple records were set as we won more contests than we have in years. The close proximity of our conference made it fun for our fans, other athletes, and students to travel and support our teams on the road. Playing to the shouts of our supporters is invaluable for our morale.

Basketball and Swimming, our winter sports, have followed the lead of our

fall sports. Both of our swimming programs have been nationally ranked, and our basketball teams are looking to set win totals that have not been seen for a long stretch of time. The expectations that our early successes have created for our spring sports will be put to the test as all of our teams face tough schedules to close out the year. Our athletes are definitely up to the task!

Our student-athletes are increasingly involved in and with non-athletic campus activities and outreach programs. In the last calendar year, our coaches and athletes have hosted events that engage and/or support various causes: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; the March of Dimes; Community Renewal International; Susan G. Komen for the Cure; multiple "Think Pink" games that support breast cancer awareness; a testing drive for potential bone marrow donors; participation in Centenary's annual MLK Service Day and the BIG Event; canned food drives for the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana; and upcoming involvement with the Special Olympics, which is a national Division III initiative. As a result, our student-athletes continue to have a strong impact in many campus organizations.

As Andrew Jackson once said, "One man with courage makes a majority," and we believe that our athletes are learning that a service-oriented majority can mean something special to our world. ■



*Adam Walsh is the head men's basketball coach and assistant athletic director for compliance at Centenary College.*

# Generations: Meet the Browns

By Dena Pruett

## Legacy enrollment has declined across the country.

For example, in 1980, 24 percent of Yale's freshman class had a parent who attended, but only 14 percent of the class of 2014 was legacy students. This number continues to wane as first-generation college students begin to make up larger and larger quantities of freshmen – roughly 30 percent.

With a record 19.7 million students enrolling in Fall 2011, college enrollment is at an all-time high. Due in part to the influx of students, admittance has become tougher for everyone and acceptance rates are far lower than a generation ago. Yet with over 6,900 higher education institutions available in the United States alone, options on what and where to study are limitless. Up to 20 percent of college students now choose to study out-of-state. Yet at Centenary, a tradition and legacy lives on.

The Brown family has shared the Centenary experience for seven generations stretching over 180 years of the College's history. The thirty-third Brown to attend Centenary is first-year student Alissa Kay Brown '15.

"Several of my family members have stayed active in the Centenary community after graduating, so their time spent here obviously had a positive impact," said Alissa. "For me, Centenary is a place to learn and grow as a person while in a small-school environment. I love the friendliness among students, faculty, and staff."

The Brown family's association with Centenary College began in 1831 with Robert Perry, whose factory provided many of the bricks for a building at the old Centenary campus in Jackson, LA. By the time Centenary moved to Shreveport, five members of the family had already graduated, including the first to graduate with the Brown family name, Thomas Walthall Brown in 1850.

The College opened in Shreveport in the fall of 1908, and by January, Paul Marvin Brown, Jr. '17, had moved into Jackson Hall.

## The Brown Family Legacy

Antecedents, Brothers, and Descendants of Paul M. Brown, Jr.

### JACKSON, LOUISIANA

CLASS OF	NAME	RELATIONSHIP
	Robert Perry*	Maternal Great-Grandfather-Board of Trustees (1831-1850), Treasurer (1845-1850) Made bricks for building at Old Centenary.
1850	Thomas Walthall Brown	Grandfather-Board of Trustees-Member
1853	Sanford Perry	Maternal Grandfather
1855	George H. Wiley	Great Uncle (by marriage) Married to Sanford Perry's sister, Mary. Taught Latin and Greek for 41 years.
1856	James M. Fly	Maternal Great Uncle
1890	Paul Marvin Brown	Father-Board of Trustees-Member



*Sitting in Brown Chapel, Charles Ellis Brown '48 and Alissa Kay Brown '15 represent the oldest and youngest Brown family members of the Centenary community.*

After serving in World War I, he would go on to become a banker and president of a successful oil business. Brown returned to Centenary in 1933 when he was asked to save the College from financial collapse. Leading Centenary through the Great Depression and another World War, he would serve on the Board of Trustees from 1933-1981 and as vice chairman for 25 years. Brown's tenure on the Board coincided with construction of many of the buildings that make up the campus today, including Brown Memorial Chapel.

Paul Brown, Jr.'s son, Charles Ellis Brown '48, remembers clearly what it was like to have his father as chairman of the Board while he attended college.

"I was doing fairly well in the geology classes, but I never made an 'A' for Dr. Hickox," Brown remembers. "So, I asked him one day, 'Don't I deserve an 'A' in this class?'"

"Probably do," answered Hickox. "But I won't give it to you because I won't be accused of showing partiality because your father is chairman of the Board."

Charles Ellis Brown himself joined Centenary's Board of Trustees in 1965 and served as vice chairman from 1995-2005. In all, seven members of the family have served on the Board.

"Centenary has been a part of our family before me and probably will be long after I am gone," said Charles Ellis. "Those of us who have attended Centenary think it is a pretty good place to get an education – and a spouse. My sister met her husband here. My cousin Jimmie met

her husband here. My son met his wife here. I met my wife here. In fact, I remember I first laid eyes on Alice in the SUB. She was playing bridge with her friends."

With a majority of the Browns having maroon and white in their blood, others might assume that they are given no other option when it comes to choosing an undergraduate institution. However, members of the family are quick to dispel that idea.

"I met my wife here. In fact, I remember I first laid eyes on Alice in the SUB. She was playing bridge with her friends."

Charles Ellis Brown '48

"Centenary represents a liberal arts college with a rich history," said Chris Brown '01 and current Centenary Archivist. "I do not know if people will ever believe it, but I did not feel pressured to choose Centenary. I chose Centenary primarily because of its student-operated, free-form radio station, KSCL. I was free to choose any college, and I am happy that I chose Centenary."

In July 1980, Paul M. Brown, Jr., closed his memoirs in *The Paul Brown Era at Centenary* with these words to his grandchildren:

"I have had a full life and I hope a fruitful one. My generation is over. I must not intrude on coming generations. The future is yours. Make the most of it. And may God bless you." ■

## SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

1917	Paul Marvin Brown, Jr.	Board of Trustees (1933-1981) Chairman (1940-1965)	1974	Mark A. Greve	Grandson
1917	Ellis Horne Brown	Brother	1975	Willie Cavett Brown*	Wife-Honorary Alumna
1926	Sanford Perry Brown	Brother-Board of Trustees-Member (1949-1970)	1978	Minette Greve (Poole)*	Granddaughter
1943	Jimmye Brown (Blackmon)	Niece	1979	C. Ellis Brown, Jr.	Grandson-Board of Trustees-Member (2005-present)
1945	Eleanor Brown (Greve)	Daughter	1983	Bobra Lohnes (Brown)	Grandson's wife
1947	Bertrand J. Greve	Son-in-law	1984	Pauline Greve (Hibbs)	Granddaughter
1948	James H. Blackmon	Niece's husband	1984	William Timothy Hibbs	Granddaughter's husband
1948	Alice Curtis (Brown)	Daughter-in-law	1997	Jennifer Dent (Hill)	Great Granddaughter
1948	Charles Ellis Brown	Son-Board of Trustees (1965-present)- Vice Chairman (1995-2005)	1999	Stephen B. Hill	Great Granddaughter's husband
1950	Bruce O. Brown*	Nephew	2001	Christopher Ellis Brown	Great Grandson-Centenary Archivist (2003-2007,2009-present)
1951	Sara Clair Cavett (Johnson)	Niece	2003	Katherine Poole (Urbis)	Great Granddaughter
1970, 1987	J. David Dent	Granddaughter's husband	2004	Karen A. Dent (Degenhart)	Great Granddaughter
1972, 1998	Camille Greve (Dent)	Granddaughter	2005	Jonathan D. Dent	Great Grandson
			2006	Alan Michael Brown	Great Grandson
				Alissa Kay Brown	Great Granddaughter

\* Did not graduate.

# Ask the Experts

The faculty and staff at Centenary possess a wealth of knowledge on myriad subjects ranging from theatre to sciences, and foreign language to philosophy. In this section, we feature expert commentary on some of the year's most complex and pressing issues.

## Q: Recently, there have been some reports of earthquakes in America. Are these events associated with hydraulic fracturing as used in oil and gas exploration?

**A:** There is a substantial record of earthquakes that have been triggered by human activities. It is tempting to try to connect the recent earthquakes in unusual places like Arkansas and Ohio with hydraulic fracturing activities, but that isn't the case. Rather it is the disposal of fluid wastes that is often connected to these earthquakes. When fluid wastes are injected into the ground, they can push apart the opposite sides of an existing fracture allowing the two sides to slip and cause an earthquake. Such deep disposal

has been connected to earthquakes in Ohio, several places in Arkansas, and possibly around the Rocky Mountain Arsenal near Denver. In all cases, the fractures are already present; increasing the pressure of the fluids just makes it easier for slip to happen.

In hydraulic fracturing, the point is to make new fractures in unbroken rock. Those fractures are local and don't extend as great a distance as fractures that do slip. If there were extensive fracturing

of the reservoir rock beforehand, it is likely that most of the desirable product would have escaped.

So hydraulic fracturing is unlikely to trigger earthquakes. If numerous large faults were present in the shales, you probably wouldn't want to drill there anyhow. ■

*Dr. David Bieler is the Chair of the Geology Department at Centenary College.*



## Q: I'm thinking of buying my child an iPad as a birthday gift, but have heard mixed messages on whether electronics are good for children. Should I buy it?



**A:** The mixed messages may be because the answer to your question depends in part

on the age of your child. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children under the age of two get no screen time at all. Several studies suggest that young children learn very little from screen time when compared to face-to-face interaction. While zero screen time may be unrealistic for all families in all circumstances, I would not recommend a personal iPad for a very young child.

Other research with school-age children suggests that the simplest toys (good old

fashioned blocks and blanket forts, for example) may do more to spur cognitive development than technological toys. We don't know exactly why that is. My own guess is that it's related to the fact that "old-fashioned" toys, unlike most contemporary electronic toys, do not tell you how to play with them. That is, one's possibilities are much more limited with technology.

One possible danger of an iPad for an older child is that, because it is so portable, she can use it completely unsupervised. There are a variety of dangers that exist in the virtual world. While it is far more likely that your child will be bullied (or bully someone else) electronically or use poor

judgment in posting to a Facebook page, some children are tricked by pedophiles. Supervision of a child's technology use is important until they're old enough to leave home.

The bottom line is that your child will grow up in a world surrounded by technology; she'll learn how to use it very well regardless of when she starts. When she's young, she'll learn much more from interacting with humans, entertaining herself, and using her imagination; as she gets older, you'll need to supervise technology use closely. ■

*Dr. Amy Hammond is an assistant professor of Psychology at Centenary College.*

## Q: With the 2012 Presidential election coming up in November, how do you think voter turn-out will compare to the record numbers in 2008, especially among young voters?

**A:** Young and minority voters will still strongly support President Obama, but mobilizing these voters will be more difficult this time around. The 2012 election will not have the same historic nature of the 2008 election that involved the first non-white presidential candidate for a major party. Obama's appeal has also taken a bit of a hit after four years in which the economy has only slowly moved towards recovery and economic policies have become the primary focus of the campaign. He was in a much better position to use his charisma to rally voters in 2008 with the unpopularity of the

Republican Party following the Bush administration. There have been similar spikes in turnout in previous elections, but the effect has proven to be fleeting. For example, Bill Clinton was able to rally young voters to a turnout rate of 42.8 percent in 1992, but his reelection bid in 1996 saw only 32.4 percent of 18-24 year olds come out to vote.

Still, while turnout may not be as high as it was in 2008, there are reasons to think that we won't see a drastic drop. In addition to the 2008 election, there was also a large, less publicized spike in turnout among young voters in 2004.

In 2000 only 32.3 percent of 18-24 year olds voted, compared to 41.9 percent in 2004 and 44.3 percent 2008. The big question is whether these past

two elections were aberrations due to the anti-Bush sentiment among young voters, or if they are a sign that younger voters are becoming more engaged. ■

*Dr. Christopher M. Parker is an assistant professor of Political Science at Centenary College.*



## Q: Is America nearing the end of the “great recession?” If so, what are the signs of recovery?



**A:** The good news is that officially, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research, a private research firm that dates recession, we have been

out of the “great recession” since July 2009 – over two years. The bad news is, as everyone knows, the recovery has been lackluster to say the least. This recent recession was the most severe downturn since the Great Depression, and usually the deeper the recession, the faster and stronger the recovery. Not so in this case.

One of the most popular indicators of the health of the economy is the unemployment rate, a lagging indicator, which does not peak until after the end of the recession. For this most recent recession,

the unemployment rate peaked at 10 percent in October 2009, four months after the official end of the recession. In the intervening two and a half years, the unemployment rate has slowly fallen to 8.3 percent and seems to be picking up momentum. On a positive note, the recent decline in the unemployment rate can be attributed to a rise in the number of private sector jobs as opposed to discouraged workers dropping out of the labor force. The other commonly used barometer of economic recovery is the growth rate of GDP. The annual growth rate of GDP for 2010 was 3 percent but for 2011 it was an anemic 1.7 percent - neither resembling the usual rebound following recessions. In the two years after the 1981-1982 recession, the economy grew at 4.5 percent and 7.2 percent.

On an optimistic note, we have managed

to avoid the dreaded double-dip recession so many feared. What 2012 holds for the American economy will depend, in part, upon what happens in Europe, our largest trading partner, as well as how we handle the government deficit/debt issues in the U.S. I'll end with a quote, used by economists everywhere in response to the question of what will happen to the economy: “It will change.” ■

*Dr. Elizabeth Rankin is a professor of Economics in Centenary's Frost School of Business.*

***Do you have a question for our experts?*** Send it to [encircle@centenary.edu](mailto:encircle@centenary.edu) – we may feature it in the next edition of the magazine.



# UPCOMING

- |               |  |                |   |
|---------------|--|----------------|---|
| April 13 – 14 | <b>First Choice Springboard</b> for incoming students<br>admission@centenary.edu or 318.869.5131                         | June 3 – 6     | <b>Louisiana United Methodist Annual Conference</b>   |
| April 26      | <b>Alumni Lunch and Learn</b><br>ssolomon@centenary.edu or 318.869.5115  | June 10 – 11   | <b>Summer Springboard</b><br>admission@centenary.edu or 1.800.234.4448                                |
| April 27 – 28 | <b>College Kickstart</b> for high school juniors<br>gbrewer@centenary.edu or 318.869.5748                                | June 24 – 25   | <b>Summer Springboard</b><br>admission@centenary.edu or 1.800.234.4448                                |
| May 1         | <b>Deadline for submitting deposit</b> and admission agreement for Fall 2012 – admission@centenary.edu or 1.800.234.4448 | June 30        | <b>Last day to give for 2011-12 fiscal year!</b><br>centenary.edu/give 318.869.5216 or 1.800.259.6447 |
| May 5         | <b>Baccalaureate &amp; Commencement Ceremonies</b><br>jclement@centenary.edu or 318.869.5104                             | July 22 – 23   | <b>Summer Springboard</b><br>admission@centenary.edu or 1.800.234.4488                                |
| May 19        | <b>Shreveport-Bossier Alumni Chapter Crawfish Boil</b><br>ssolomon@centenary.edu or 318.869.5115                         | August 16      | <b>Summer Springboard – Final Session</b><br>admission@centenary.edu or 1.800.234.4488                |
| June 2        | <b>DC Area Alumni Chapter Crawfish Boil</b><br>ssolomon@centenary.edu or 318.869.5115                                    | August 17 – 19 | <b>New Student Orientation</b><br>admission@centenary.edu or 1.800.234.4488                           |

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# Looking for Class Notes?

I'm excited to tell you about a new service coming in June 2012 – the Centenary alumni newsletter. Our goal is to create a unique outlet where you can get news on where your classmates are and what they are up to, and what's going on at the College that may be interesting to you.

The newsletter will include alumni profiles and everyone's favorite – class notes! You can expect to receive it twice annually, in coordination with *Encircle's* publication schedule. *Encircle* will be published the first and third quarter of the year, while the alumni newsletter will appear in your mailbox the second and fourth quarters.

In addition, the Office of Alumni and Family Relations is utilizing a number of social media tools to keep our alumni informed about and engaged with the Centenary community.

We have an alumni Facebook page, an account on Twitter, and a group on LinkedIn. Also, if you want instant access to current class notes, you can see them all on our alumni website!

We look forward to sharing more alumni news with you in June!

*Saige W. Solomon*

Saige Wilhite Solomon '05  
Director of Alumni and Family Relations



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On the Internet: [centenary.edu/alumni](http://centenary.edu/alumni)

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On LinkedIn: [Centenary College of Louisiana Alumni Association](#)

*Pictured above: Jan Witt '81 and Mark Evans '82 during Fall Homecoming 2011.*



# Centenary Traditions

By David Henington '82

In February, the Centenary family celebrated Founder's Day, our 187th since the College's establishment in Jackson, Louisiana. Founder's Day Convocations always cause me to reflect on significant traditions at Centenary. Processing into Brown Chapel in my academic regalia with the Trustees, faculty, staff, and soon-to-be graduates is probably what gets me started. While this tradition continues at Centenary, it has been dropped by many other academic institutions. Traditions can be campus-wide, like processing, or specific to an organization or affinity. The Centenary College Choir observes many traditions anchored in its seventy-year history. Traditions thrive in Greek Life and within student organizations that foster leadership and service to the community locally, nationally, and internationally. Athletic programs have existed at various levels, but all have ascribed to the tradition of the student athlete: academics first.

At the College's core is its connection to the United Methodist Church and its tradition of advocating the importance of education in matters both secular and sacred. Centenary is an extension of this tradition. Committed faculty members nurture students and teach them to look at issues and problems from all directions, challenging them to defend their findings – a method consistent with Wesley's views on education.

Strong traditions unite Centenary students, alumni, and friends of the College across generations. Records documenting these traditions are found in the Centenary College Archives. As you will see in the message here from Archivist Chris Brown, it is now easier to access many of those records. ■



## FROM THE ARCHIVES Digitizing Centenary Publications

By Chris Brown '01

The Centenary Archives and Special Collections is pleased to announce that over 200 publications from the College Archives are now available for viewing online, including Centenary's collection of Yoncopin yearbooks (1922-2011), college catalogs (1856-2010), alumni magazines (1969-1988), student literary magazines (Insights 1962-1967), and three books related to Centenary's history – *The Dean Smith Years: Centenary College, the Four Square Bible Class* by Bentley Sloane (1978); *The Paul Brown Era at Centenary: Years of Growth* by Paul Brown, Walter Lowrey, and Donald Webb (1981); and *Centenary College of Louisiana, 1825-2000: The Biography of an American Academy* by Lee Morgan (2008).

These publications are made available through a project partnering the Archives, the Office of Alumni and Family Relations, and the LYRASIS Mass Digitization Collaborative – a Sloan Foundation grant-subsidized program that has made digitization easy and affordable for libraries and cultural institutions across the country.

Through the Collaborative's partnership with the Internet Archive, all items were scanned from cover-to-cover and in full color. You can choose from a variety of formats: page through a book choosing the "read online" option, download the PDF, or search the full text version.

To view the collections, visit [archive.org/details/centenarycollegeoflouisiana](http://archive.org/details/centenarycollegeoflouisiana). If you have any questions about this project and the works that have been digitized, please contact the College archivist Chris Brown at 318.869.5462 or [archives@centenary.edu](mailto:archives@centenary.edu). ■

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*The Paul Marvin Brown, Jr., Society*

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Some planned gifts provide income for life. Some gifts can provide a permanent legacy. Centenary welcomes the opportunity to work with you to establish specific criteria for your gift, which can be named in your honor or for other loved ones.

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# ENCIRCLE

FALL 2012

**Undertaking  
Urban Renewal**

**Intercultural  
Compassion  
in Haiti**



**Reforming Education:  
A Passion for Change**

**Finding Common Ground  
in Our Nation's Capital**

**A Cleaner Path to Energy  
Independence**

**PATH TO  
PEACE**  
**Empowering  
Youth to Action**



# INSIDE

Encircle features are divided into three categories based on 21st-century global challenges as identified by Centenary faculty and engaged by our students and graduates:



**Expanding Circles** — Our challenge is to expand our circle to promote respectful engagement with a broader world. In the 21st century, not everyone shares the same values or experiences, and conflict exists. Through exploration and discussion of our differences, we must work to create the common ground necessary to build peaceful, just, and mutually beneficial relationships.



**Sustainable Life** — Our challenge is to develop sustainable lifestyles and appreciate the natural environment in ways that do not compromise the capacity of future generations to satisfy their needs. We must learn how to lead a sustainable life, work to devise solutions to problems that use our planet's resources wisely, and create sustainable, just, and compassionate systems.



**Meaningful Life** — Our challenge is to identify and live intentionally our deeply held values, ideals, and beliefs while respecting the values and beliefs of others. By approaching the world with an open mind, we search for meaning and purpose. We must explore our passions, question assumptions, and strive toward our potential so as to help others live their potential as well.

*Below: Centenary student Samiramis Sayad '14 teaches children at a Haitian orphanage.*



*Above: Dr. Dana Kress with students in Haiti.*



*Above: Students perform in-depth examinations of local trees.  
Below: David Micinski '11 and Jacob Jones '10 give a presentation to local school children.*







## EXPANDING CIRCLES

- 5** **The Path to Peace  
Empowering Youth to Action**  
World Peace Summit inspires Centenary students to foster change.
- 11** **Intercultural Compassion in Haiti**  
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- 12** **Ask the Expert: Dr. Dana Kress**  
Haitians face huge challenges moving forward.

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- 18** **A Cleaner Path to Energy Independence**  
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# ENCIRCLE

*Encircle* is published by  
Centenary College of Louisiana  
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FALL 2012

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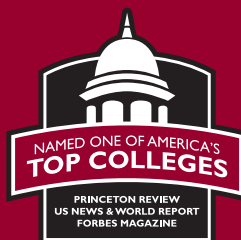
## ON THE COVER:

Painted hands join to represent  
a collaborative world. Learn the  
story behind this photo on page 4.  
Cover photo by Sherry Heflin.

Centenary  
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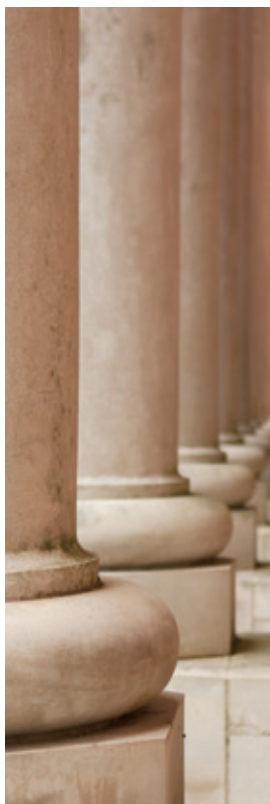
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## A WORD FROM THE EDITORS



We live in an increasingly complex and ever-changing world. At Centenary, we respond by reading graduates to tackle today's challenges while preparing them to address future issues not yet known.

This edition of *Encircle* provides an in-depth look at some of today's most pressing issues at local, national, and international levels. The articles that follow explore the work of our students, faculty, and alumni as they convene with world leaders in Chicago to share lessons of peace, overcome the polarized environment in Washington, D.C., to effect change, and take on education reform in Louisiana. *Encircle* follows members of the Centenary family overseas to the Olympic Games in London where they encourage athletes to compete clean and to Haiti where they are changing lives through humanitarian efforts. We'll also examine local efforts to make the Shreveport-Bossier area more sustainable.

Most importantly, you will see how members of the Centenary community—current students, alumni, faculty, and others—draw from their Centenary experiences to engage and lead in their communities and in the world.

*Matt Bailey*

MATT BAILEY

*Senior Director of External Relations*

*Margo Shideler*

MARGO SHIDELER

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*"If your actions inspire others to dream more,  
learn more, do more, and become more,  
you are a leader."*

**John Quincy Adams**

## BEHIND THE COVER



Bruce Allen '75, Professor of Art and Chair of the Department of Art and Visual Culture at Centenary College, paints an image of the globe in intricate detail for the cover art of *Encircle*. Ellen Orr '15 (left) and Paul Eugene (right) lent their hands to make the artwork possible.





# The Path to Peace

## *Empowering Youth to Action*

“As Nobel Peace Laureates and Laureate organizations we realize that if the commitment to peace and human rights is not passed from one generation to the next our achievements will be short lived.”

— FINAL DECLARATION OF THE 12TH WORLD  
SUMMIT OF NOBEL PEACE LAUREATES

*Centenary students worked with children at an orphanage in Haiti in May 2012 (top right and left).  
During the summer of 2012, Centenary student Jordan Ring '13 completed a fellowship in Lebanon (top center).*





War is not the answer

*Demilitarization isn't a dirty word; non-violence isn't non-action; and real peace isn't for wimps. —Jody Williams*

Over 250,000 deaths occur each year due to armed conflicts. Ninety percent of the casualties from these conflicts are civilians—a higher fatality rate than either World War I or II.

To combat the violence, the United Nations has sponsored 67 peacekeeping operations since 1948 and currently maintains 16 operations worldwide. Despite these efforts, 30 armed conflicts on average persist every year. The UN continues to funnel both human and monetary resources toward peace efforts with a running budget of \$7.84 billion and 117 nations contributing a combined uniformed personnel force of 98,965. Yet peace remains elusive.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**116,919**

UN field  
personnel deployed

**117**

Countries contributing  
troops, police & military

**16**

UN missions across  
four continents



Centenary students Paul Eugene, Jordan Ring '13, Ellen Orr '15, Nancy Word '70, Mary Kathryn Orsulak '12, and Tia Landrum '14 attended the 2012 Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates.

*Peace is not just the absence of bad things but also when people make good things happen. —President Bill Clinton*

Grassroots peace movements have sprung up across the United States in an effort to aid the United Nations' global-scale peacekeeping efforts. Groups like the Nobel Women's Initiative (NWI) and PeaceJam seek peace through acts of education, inspiration, and action.

### Doing good wherever you can

The NWI uses the prestige and clout of women peace laureates, of which there have been only 12 in the 100-year history of the Nobel Peace Prize, to intensify the efforts of women around the world working toward peace, justice, and equality. Centenary trustee Nancy Word '70 became a Nobel Women Philanthropist in 2009 through her work with Impact Austin—a philanthropy she co-founded.

Impact Austin began with members donating \$1,000 each to help fund a

cause or nonprofit organization chosen by the group. Now in its tenth year, the group has raised over \$3,000,000 for area nonprofits through its power of collective giving.

In an address given to Impact Austin, Lynne Twist, author of *The Soul of Money*, introduced Word to NWI. Twist had just begun work with NWI, and Word immediately felt a strong connection with the organization, Twist, and the maxim of “try to do good wherever you can.” Word has since traveled with an NWI delegation and three Nobel Women Laureates to Dharamsala in Northern India to visit the exiled Tibetan government and a school.

“I struggle with having such a profound experience—how do I share it?” asks Word. “I give financial support to the NWI and spread the word, but the Nobel Laureates are the ones who command an audience with government leaders. It is truly humbling and inspiring to know the women Nobel Laureates and realize that they are ordinary people who are





just very, very determined. Young people need to be exposed to that and know—you can make difference. One person can make a difference.”

Word is also planning a trip in January 2013 to Liberia. The NWI and Word's efforts there will be focused on stopping rape and gender violence in conflicts. They hope to prevent and eliminate sexual violence as a tactic of war and advocate for access to medical care, empowerment initiatives, and restitution for survivors.

“The work is just so energizing, and you want to do whatever you can do to support these women. They just want justice and basic human needs—food, shelter, and clean water. It is difficult to say that I am looking forward to traveling to Liberia, but it is such an amazing experience to meet these women who—I feel—are the bravest women on the planet.”

Much like NWI, PeaceJam uses the influence and wisdom of Nobel Peace Laureates to create young leaders committed to positive change. The organization has campaigned for a “Global Call to Action” since 2008, encouraging the youth of the world to take action by challenging them to create one billion acts of service and peace by 2018.

The shared interest in Nobel Laureate support is no accident—both organizations seek to educate and inspire others to action from the example of Laureates.

The two organizations combined their efforts during the 12th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates held April 23-25, 2012, in Chicago, IL. Since 1999, the World Summit has gathered Nobel Laureates to discuss ideas and proposals to foster peace.



Sean Penn, pictured above in Haiti, received the 2012 Peace Summit Award for his efforts to assist victims of the 2010 earthquake. ©iStockphoto.com/ Kevork Djansezian

## The power to commit change starts with the individual.

— Archbishop Desmond Tutu

The 12th World Peace Summit took an extra step and, for the first time, emphasized engaging and empowering youth to action. This year's Summit focused on “Speak Up, Speak Out for Freedom and Rights.” The final declaration of the Summit touched on the important role youth play in the path to peace:

“As Nobel Peace Laureates we realize that if the commitment to peace and human rights is not passed from one generation to the next, our achievements will be short lived. We are concerned that old threats to peace are persisting and new ones are emerging. We therefore urge young people to organize for peace and learn to prevent and resolve conflicts peacefully.”

## Extending opportunities to future generations

Centenary students Paul Eugene, Tia Landrum '14, alumna Mary Kathryn Orsulak '12, Ellen Orr '15, and Jordan Ring '13 were among the 700 university students from around the world to attend. These students listened to impassioned speeches and personal vignettes from luminaries such as the Dalai Lama, Jimmy Carter, Lech Walesa, F. W. de Klerk, Ethel Kennedy, and Nobel Peace Prize winner Jody Williams and engaged in thoughtful dialogue with other attendees.



"It was truly one of those experiences of a lifetime," said Word. "To see the leaders of peace representing multiple countries, peoples, and generations—all assembled to send the same message to our youth—motivate them to make a difference—was incredibly uplifting. To be able to share this wisdom and inspiration with Centenary students was just the icing on the cake."

Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, chaired the Summit along with Walter Vetroni, former mayor of Rome. The three-day event featured the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights-produced play *Speak Truth to Power*, moderated panel discussions among 21 Nobel Peace Laureates, and a keynote address from President Bill Clinton, one of five former world presidents in attendance.

*The power to commit change starts with the individual. Change comes from millions of tiny acts that may seem relatively insignificant at the time but make a difference when they are emulated by others. —Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

The students unanimously identified their meeting with Jody Williams as the most influential encounter they experienced. Williams, a political activist and recipient of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize, is known for her work in the banning and clearing of anti-personnel mines. She is also a founding member and Chair of the Nobel Women's Initiative.

"The most practical advice she [Williams] gave to young activists



Jody Williams (right) is one of several Nobel Laureates working with the youth-focused international educational nonprofit, PeaceJam. Photo courtesy of PeaceJam.

was to do something," said Jordan Ring, a senior. "Being a peace activist does not require a day-in and day-out time commitment. She encouraged young people to find the cause they are most passionate about, whatever it may be, find an accessible organization that aligns with the cause, and to volunteer. She challenged us to imagine what the world could be if people volunteer for just a few hours a month... imagine the change that could take place."

Word herself was awed at being surrounded by so many who shared the same passion.

"I felt a fullness of heart and mind being among so many who had the same vision and honest desire to further social justice around the world. There was no sense of this country versus that country—we were all global citizens seeking to further an understanding of how we can embrace each other and our

shared environment for future generations." Many of the students found the speakers to be inspiring, but meeting new contacts was the greater thrill. Reflecting on the experience that she called "life-changing and intellectually draining," Orr focused on the connections she was able to make:

"My networking circle has multiplied in size. People who are doing good in the world usually want to help other people who are doing good in the world. Jody Williams will be a great source of advice in the future—she has already communicated with us via Facebook."

### Expanding lessons learned

*As long as we believe, and we struggle to achieve our dreams; We persevere; We don't give up; We don't surrender in the face of odds—We can contribute to the betterment of humanity. — President Jose Ramos-Horta, East Timor*





*"I was so inspired by our students, their values, and their commitment."*

– Nancy Word '70

The experience of the Summit has led to internship opportunities for the students and helped them hone their future plans.

New graduate Mary Kathryn Orsulak is currently pursuing her Master in Public Health with a focus on global health at the University of Belfast.

Orsulak cites former President of South Africa F.W. de Klerk as her inspiration: "He said 'I just knew I couldn't let this situation go on anymore whenever I could no longer defend my action of doing nothing.' I think this idea of being will stick with me forever. I want to go into medicine and I want to help the poor because I couldn't defend my actions if I decided not to help the people who needed it most."

After being exposed to what she described as "the power of people and the possibilities that emerge when intentions are good and fear is thrown down the disposal," Orr spent her summer on a fellowship in Germany at the Freie Universitaet Berlin International Summer University (FUBiS).

Jordan Ring, taking to heart Jody Williams's claim that "changing the world for the better is not magic," spent two weeks of her summer in Lebanon

learning about local civic engagement and the political arena. The fellowship, sponsored by the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, brings her one step closer to her goal of working in child soldier rehabilitation.

Tia Landrum, a pre-med major, spent much of July and August in Ghana as part of an intensive medical internship for Global Brigades. While there, she discovered an emaciated and injured

10-year-old orphan girl, lying on the side of a road. Using her own meager allowance, she sought out a caregiver for the girl she came to call "Adom," which means "the grace of god" in her native language. Simply calling the girl "Grace," Landrum set up an account through Global Brigades to ask for donations and campaigned using Facebook.

Through her efforts and those of many others,

Grace received much needed medical attention and a search is underway for a suitable orphanage to take care of her long-term needs. Landrum plans to use what she learned in Ghana on future service trips to Haiti.

Paul Eugene helped Landrum raise funds for her journey to Ghana. Along with Orr and Ring, he led efforts at home in Shreveport to raise the capital for Grace's care.

Inspired by the Summit and the Nobel Laureates' words, Word will continue her work with the NWI.

"Each person made us feel that there was no magic to this—just hard work and finding like-minded people to work with you. One of the laureates said, 'We need more people with hearts filled like fire.'"

Word feels certain that Centenary leaders will be among them.

"I was so inspired by our students, their values, and their commitment to making the world a better place. And now I have this experience to share with them and help them make connections that will further their goals for changing the world." ■



*Centenary student Tia Landrum '14 laughs with Grace, an orphaned girl Tia saved while participating in a medical internship during the 2012 summer.*

A photograph showing two young women, likely students, in a classroom setting in Haiti. They are standing and interacting with a group of young children. The woman on the left is wearing a blue tank top and has her hands clasped. The woman on the right is wearing a maroon tank top and is smiling. The children are sitting at wooden desks. In the background, there is a chalkboard with French words written on it, such as 'bouch-mouth', 'nez-nose', 'doigt-fingers', 'ventre-stomach', 'tête-head', 'main-hand', 'je nou', 'zorey', and 'zote'.

# Intercultural Compassion in Haiti

In May 2012, Centenary student Tia Landrum '14 travelled to Les Cayes, Haiti, with her peers and professors as a part of the 2012 Centenary May Module program. She reflects on her experiences in this essay.

Modules are immersive, month-long courses covering many academic areas and offering intercultural experiences as close as a few minutes from the College's Shreveport, Louisiana, campus, and as far away as Australia and India. Many of the students attending the Module in Haiti were from Centenary living learning communities Santé and Le Quartier Français. Students learned first-hand about life within and near the orphanages of Les Cayes, a coastal city located on the southern peninsula of Haiti.

I recently had the privilege to visit a nation of incredible dignity and hope. Ayiti (or "Haiti," as the United States calls it), is a developing country with an incredible and tumultuous history. Its current national conditions are not merely the result of the January 2010 earthquake that leveled much of its capital city, Port au Prince. The extreme poverty, dishonest politics, and ruthless dictators that have marked the years of the country's history have contributed to the bleak environment found there today.

I accepted an internship with an organization called Global Brigades in Ghana, West Africa, immediately before my journey to Haiti. One of the fundamentals of Global Brigades that led me to accept the Ghana internship was a principle of cultural respect. They emphasize an approach to instituting sustainable initiatives in developing countries that is entirely dependent on





*During an educational trip to Haiti in May 2012, Centenary students lead children in song at the Bigarrouse Orphanage.*

community involvement. They share my belief that there is no potential for project success without cooperation of and respect for the culture for which the development is intended.

This is exactly what I witnessed in Haiti.

Generous doctors, missionaries, and other first-world volunteers travel to Haiti regularly to perform acts of service. One major flaw in their otherwise goodwill is a mentality of charity rather than cooperation. From an outside perspective, bringing supplies, technology, and project designs to a developing country can only be a positive contribution, especially if those things have been valuable to the success of one's own culture. Unfortunately, this assumption often leads to a counterproductive imposition of value systems and/or personal practices that is culturally insensitive. This breach of potential common understanding renders otherwise generous contributions ineffective in the society they are intended to improve.

For example, I was personally interested in the medical initiatives we may be able to implement in rural Haiti. In conversations with locals in Les Cayes (in South Haiti), I found many believed there were preliminary steps missing in the practice of establishing and staffing medical clinics. Basic resources and knowledge were unavailable to the rural people, eliminating any ability for them either to attend the clinics where they had

been established or to understand prescribed treatment in order to participate effectively as a patient. Also, doctors were scarce and poorly educated in the rural areas from lack of medical schools outside of Port au Prince (roughly a six hour drive from Les Cayes).

I encountered several young adults who told me of their desires to work in medicine. All of these individuals were bright and spoke many languages despite a lack of travel and formal education. The reason for their alternate career paths was the same despite very different backgrounds and circumstances: there is no medical school near them. The city of Port au Prince is too dangerous and too expensive for their families to afford, even if they could miraculously afford the travel and medical education costs.

Our group alone invested over \$80,000 collectively to travel to Haiti and teach minor concepts in two orphanages. The financial investment of the thousands of doctors and other healthcare professionals who volunteer their services in Haiti



*Landrum visits with several Haitian girls during the May 2012 faculty-led trip to Haiti.*



*Centenary faculty and students pose with their newfound Haitian friends in the coastal city of Les Cayes.*

is exponentially greater. Our traditional model for humanitarian aid is obviously not cost- or culture-effective considering the medical school we could establish in Haiti using humanitarian funds to train a region of native doctors.

As a nation with abundant resources and opportunities, we have a responsibility to use our excesses for respectful collaboration in humanitarian efforts with developing nations. We should embrace education of culture and appreciate the shared history that resulted in our successes and others' struggles. This mutual respect is the mechanism for effective, sustainable good works in developing nations. ■

## ENGAGE

### Expanding Circles

Hope delivered to your eyes! See inspiring footage from a Haitian Orphanage:

<http://bit.ly/QswiQJ>

Learn more about the experiences of our students and faculty in Haiti by reading their blog: <http://bit.ly/M1x6Ys>

## ASK THE EXPERT

**What is the biggest challenge facing the people of Haiti right now?**



The biggest problem for the Haitian people lies with us, not them. Haiti defies simple understanding. It is a nation of towering mountains and shocking beauty. Few Americans have seen this Haiti and fewer Haitians have ever met an American who tried to understand Haiti as it is. It is the rare Haitian who has seen an American who could speak Creole; they have never seen a Blanc (a white person) carry water, dance in the streets or go to a country market. The vast majority of American aid workers pass through the towns in their cars with the windows rolled up. They almost certainly never grasp that beneath the surface of what appears to be simple solutions there are unimagined complexities. A Creole saying captures the complexity of Haitian existence with stark simplicity: "Behind every mountain there are mountains."

A few years ago, Haiti was self-sufficient in rice, a staple in the national diet. When the U.S. poured food aid into the country, the market collapsed and local farmers could no longer sell rice to people

who received it for free. Today Haiti is forced to import almost all its rice from the United States, and a major source of employment has been lost.

In Haiti, life vibrates with meaning because everyone knows how fragile it is. For a Haitian, a simple walk to the market can be a spiritual experience because every tree, stone, plant and animal is imbued with meanings that are hidden to the eyes of those who cannot see beyond the mountains. People talk to their neighbors; they pour into the streets on Flag Day and dance there for hours on end. These are not timid and anemic dances performed by people who are afraid to sweat. No. These are exquisitely choreographed, rhythmic, body-drenching celebrations of life unknown to Americans, but which are in perfect harmony with a people whose national anthem contains the words "To die is beautiful." Behind every death there is a celebration.

Haiti has many problems, but knowing how to live and how to pass through this existence with a spiritual awareness comes naturally to most Haitians. Perhaps we could learn something from them.

*Dr. Dana Kress is the Chair of the Foreign Language Department and Professor of French at Centenary.*





## UNDERTAKING URBAN RENEWAL

*An illuminated model of Common Link,  
the future transportation and  
information hub of Shreveport Common.  
Courtesy of Shreveport Regional Arts Council (SRAC).*

**For the first time in human history,  
most of the world's population—  
3.5 billion—is living in urban areas.**

By 2050, the United Nations Environment Programme estimates that 80 percent of the global population will reside in cities. Management of these areas has led to efforts in urban renewal and sustainability to reduce the mass population's ecological footprint.

Though cities occupy only 3 percent of the Earth, they produce 50 percent of all waste, 60–80 percent of all greenhouse emissions, and consume 75 percent of natural resources. Urban sprawl, the construction of residential and commercial buildings at the outskirts of a city, has further depleted natural resources. Automobile commuters from these distant areas also increase air pollution levels. These development patterns, which leave city centers in decay and pave pastures and forests, run counter to the long-term interests of the cities, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.



*The historic Central Fire Station has undergone major renovations to make a new home for the Shreveport Regional Arts Council. Courtesy of SRAC.*

In response, urban renewal efforts work to transform growth patterns and maximize the use of underutilized core development in order to decrease urban sprawl.

All of these factors have led to an overwhelming need for sustainable development. The World Commission on Environment and Development established the concept of “sustainable development” in their 1987 report, “Our Common Future.” More commonly referred to as The Bruntland Report, the paper defined sustainable development as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The Bruntland Report sought to discuss global environmental issues and suggest solutions through integrating economic and ecological policies.

The report also laid the groundwork for the Earth Summit, which convened for the first time in 1992 with over 30,000 participants. The resulting Summits have

paved the way for international agreements on climate change, forest management, biodiversity, and the establishment of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

Sustainable development is a type of smart growth. Smart growth invests time, attention, and resources in restoring community and vitality to cities while using what is already in existence, according to the U.S. Environment Protection Agency and the International City/County Management Association. It also preserves open spaces, is transit- and pedestrian-oriented, and has a mix of housing, commercial, and retail uses.

Speaking to an assembly gathered on eco-engineering, the United States Secretary of Energy Stephen Chu declared, “The global shift to urbanization presents an opportunity to improve our quality of life. The approach that cities take to urban renewal can make a big difference in improving sustainability.”

## A Call for Change

When the headquarters of the Shreveport Regional Arts Council (SRAC) burned down in August 2009, Mayor Cedric B. Glover, city council members, and citizens saw an opportunity for smart growth and sustainable development. The group pledged to transform the landscape of downtown Shreveport. Within days of the arson, SRAC decided to renovate and repurpose downtown Shreveport's historic Central Fire Station as their new home. Upon completion, the Central ArtStation will devote 65 percent of its space to public programming, including a 4,000 square foot multi-purpose space, an emerging artist gallery, and artist business center.

SRAC has a strong foothold in the community having provided Shreveport with more than 500 art-related activities a year and demonstrated a \$90 million economic impact on the city over almost 20 years. Mayor Glover promised to “put the arts at the forefront of designing and stimulating a cultural economy that is rooted in arts programming, new arts venues, and increased public participation.” In doing so, he challenged SRAC to not only repurpose the underused Central Fire Station but also revitalize the 9-block area surrounding the Station and create a cultural district—a vibrant community where people could live, work, and create art.

In preparation for the arduous planning process ahead, SRAC and the City of Shreveport submitted a grant proposal to the Mayors' Institute on City Design, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts. As one of only 17 cities selected,





Shreveport received matching funds to engage the community in the planning process for the area that is now known as Shreveport Common.

Throughout much of the 19th century, the nine blocks encompassing Shreveport Common served as the city cemetery, now known as Oakland Cemetery, and Shreveport's community park. In the 1890s, some of the largest and grandest houses, home to Shreveport's wealthiest citizens, were built in the area west of Common Street. However, as newer developments drew the wealthy to the suburbs south of downtown, the Shreveport Common area began to sprout first labor then service-oriented businesses. Some of this commerce still survives today along with a few residential properties, although the majority of the area remains underused.

Local businesses and residents have been vital catalysts in creating the vision and plan for Shreveport Common. Gregory



*Community members participate in discussions on the future and purpose of Shreveport Common. Courtesy of SRAC.*

Free, a historic preservation design consultant, gathered friends of SRAC and artists to create a planning team. The group along with an advisory committee interviewed all residents and property owners within the Shreveport Common area. The Texas Avenue Community Association also hosted community listening sessions, where local citizens could share ideas. The Texas Avenue Community Association is a grassroots community organization focused on revitalizing

the surrounding areas of Texas Avenue, which was once the main thoroughfare through downtown Shreveport and the historic trail to Texas.

The United Nations Environmental Programme has found that communities that engage citizens and institutions in developing a collective sustainable vision for the future are the most successful. Shreveport City Councilman Jeff Everson '01 also sees community



*An aerial shot of the area that will comprise Shreveport Common. Courtesy of SRAC.*



involvement as essential to the success of Shreveport Common.

After graduating from Centenary, Everson gained experience in community outreach and development with both the City of Memphis and the Shreveport office of United States Senator Mary Landrieu. Along with his city council duties, he is also engaged with several partnerships and boards to enhance Shreveport's community.

As a representative of District B, Everson has been a part of the planning and listening sessions for Shreveport Common.

"To look to the core of the city and make sure it is vibrant is the most efficient use of our resources," said Everson. "The planning efforts focused on identifying the things that were great about that neighborhood, returning those things to greatness with modern planning, and making it a vibrant community of choice."

### A Vision for the Future

The vision that emerged for Shreveport Common is one of an urban cultural district powered by the arts and humanities. Shreveport Common is now considered "downtown's newest oldest 'uncommon' place...built, and rebuilt, on authenticity, community, creativity, and sustainability." Smart growth advocates will find that Shreveport Common fits perfectly with their ideal of preserving the best of the past while establishing a better future for coming generations. SRAC's Public Art Director Josh Porter '04 finds that combining the old with the new is what makes Shreveport Common such an interesting project:



*As this rendering demonstrates, organizers have big plans for creating a cultural district in downtown Shreveport. Courtesy of SRAC.*

"This area of town that makes up Shreveport Common has so much history, and it is time to regain the glory this area once had. The goal is not to start something anew but to cultivate what is already there."

After graduating from Centenary, Porter worked in film, designing and fabricating sets and props. He joined SRAC in 2006 and has since received national acclaim for his set designs and production oversight. He is currently working on Shreveport Common's "Line and Sky," an artist-designed transportation and information hub.

Porter has been focused on the visual aspect of Shreveport Commons. "My goal in this project is to encourage artists both local and national to help in the development of this area visually," said Porter. "Not just to create art that stands alone but that enhances and connects with the surrounding area. I would encourage any new developers or renovation to put art and artists at the top of their list when they are planning their space. That art really becomes integrated into the look of the community and not just an afterthought."

### Looking Ahead

The Shreveport Common area will continue to see development over the next three years. According to a SRAC-prepared executive summary, "Shreveport Common addresses all the needs of a sustainable development" and is "destined to spread into neighboring blocks to repopulate and reinvigorate the City's core."

Though Shreveport Common is far from complete, Councilman Everson is looking toward Shreveport's future with a focus on sustainable development:





"We are reinvesting in the center of our city and trying to plan for the long-term maintenance of it. Our master plan speaks strongly to sustainability, and we are looking to reinvigorate areas across the city."

The "common" area of Shreveport Common is at the heart of the new development. This triangle of land will feature a two-thirds acre lawn surrounded by a walking path. A band shell will function as a stage for performances and meetings. A dog park and smaller, niche parks scattered between buildings will provide Shreveport Common with even more attractive, green spaces. This thriving natural environment encourages social, civic, and physical activity—a tenet of sustainable development and smart growth.

Aseana Gardens and historic Oakland Cemetery are just two of the many historical landmarks in Shreveport Common that will be renovated and preserved. A visitor center will be created out of the last surviving Victorian cottages from 1890 and placed south of the Oakland Cemetery gates. The Cemetery will also receive a columbarium to use as an active memorial site and meditation place. The Aseana Gardens organization will relocate existing sculptures and introduce more child-friendly art. Panels will also be installed for sound control and to enhance performance potential. ■



**A view down historic Texas Avenue, a key thoroughfare for Shreveport Common.**

## ASK THE EXPERT



### **How do initiatives like urban greenways contribute to overall quality of life?**

Some people might ask first, "Wait, what the heck is a greenway?" Well, they're what some call "linear parks," with all the associations that go with it: trails, paths, exercise equipment, swing sets, even jungle gyms; whatever you can fit onto a narrow strip of land. Often, greenways are just trails running through corridors of forest that follow creeks, or drainage water ways. What's great about greenways is their long, thin shape. It means they can run throughout even the densest city, giving lots of folks access to nature and attractive pedestrian corridors between any kind of destination.

Having a network of greenways can have huge benefits for quality of life and health: research shows that if you live less than half a mile away from one you're more likely to use it, and so you're more likely to be healthier and happier than you would be otherwise. This is great news for those of us in Louisiana: our bayou topography has put drainage ditches and potential greenways everywhere you look. I'm hoping we've got a walk-in-the-park future!

*Dr. Loren Demerath is the Chair of the Sociology Department and Associate Professor of Sociology at Centenary. He also serves as Executive Director of A Better Shreveport, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Shreveport.*



# A Cleaner Path to Energy Independence

As energy demand increases more than 50 percent over the next two decades, the world will remain dependent on fossil fuels for generations to come, according to a recent Department of Energy report. Oil production in the U.S. has risen over the last four years while dependence on foreign oil has declined slightly. Domestic natural gas production has also risen. Although an increase in the demand for renewable energy is also expected, global consumption of natural gas is predicted to rise 52 percent.



*Photo courtesy of Chesapeake Energy.*





The issue of energy security garnered attention in 1973 when an Arab oil embargo starved U.S. markets for six months. This event sparked a domestic focus on energy independence and catalyzed efforts to reduce America's dependence on foreign sources of oil and other energy sources. According to the Congressional Budget Office, disruptions in the supply of energy commodities also increase domestic energy prices, burdening households and businesses.

A report from the news magazine *The Week* describes new drilling technology as a key driver in the move toward energy independence. Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is a relatively new process by which gases and liquids are used to break up underground rock formations to release the natural gas trapped inside. This process has made it possible to access huge deposits of natural gas in shale formations located throughout the United States. The largest deposits of shale gas have been found in Texas (Bennett Shale); Louisiana (Haynesville Shale); and Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New York (Marcellus Shale) — all of which add up to around a 100-year supply at current usage rates. Chesapeake Energy reports that about 99 percent of the natural gas we use is produced in North America, and natural gas is 70 percent less expensive than oil, making gas a cheaper and cleaner path to energy independence.

In light of these developments, the secure and efficient transfer of natural gas from ground to market is an important concern for the continued viability of natural gas as a domestic source of energy.

## History and advantages

Discovery of massive natural gas fields in Texas, Kansas, and Oklahoma coupled with advances in pipeline technology changed the face of the gas industry early in the twentieth century. Welding technologies developed in the 1920s made it possible to build longer pipelines and transport natural gas to distant markets. By the 1950s, a national market existed for natural gas. Oil shortages in the 1960s followed by the 1973 OPEC oil crisis spurred research seeking ways to expand production of natural gas. This research led to the advances in horizontal drilling that are driving today's increased recovery of shale gas.

Natural gas offers advantages as a bridge fuel to be used as more sustainable alternatives are developed. According to engineer and author RP Siegel, it emits 45 percent less carbon dioxide than coal and 30 percent less carbon dioxide than oil. It also is a low

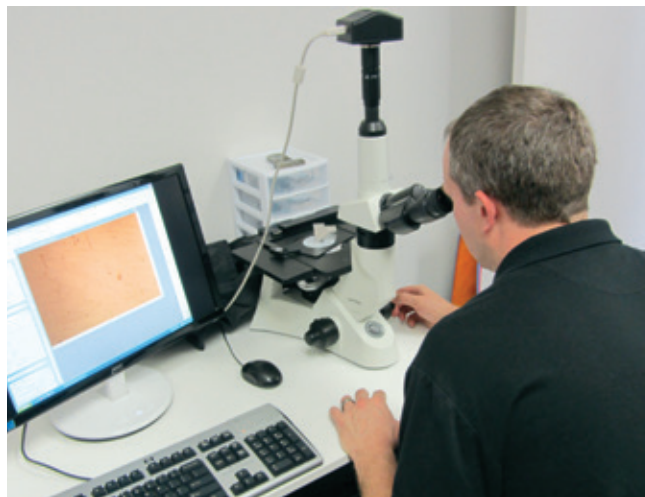
emitter of sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides, which, along with carbon dioxide, are classified as criteria pollutants—air pollutants that cause smog, acid rain, and other health hazards. Natural gas also meets national security concerns stemming from dependency on foreign oil.

The expansion of domestic natural gas production has several advantages. Natural gas is well-known and versatile as a fuel for home heating and cooking, and there is an established and relatively safe delivery infrastructure. Further, according to data compiled by Chesapeake Energy, combustion of natural gas provides 22 percent of the nation's energy yet only 16 percent of its greenhouse gas emissions. Despite these positive aspects, several inherent challenges to expanding the production and utilization of natural gas as a reliable energy source still exist.

## Appeal for caution

Critics have concerns about possible environmental risks associated with natural gas production. They not only cite issues related to horizontal drilling but also question if reduced U.S. carbon dioxide emissions from energy generation credited to a shift from coal to natural gas can be sustained with increased production. Increased production of natural gas naturally leads to increased transmission and transportation which heightens the environmental concerns of natural gas as an energy source.

Although natural gas emits the least pollutants of any fossil fuel when it is burned to produce energy, it is 80-95 percent methane in its natural state. Despite being cleaner to burn, methane is a potent greenhouse gas that can inflict significant environmental



*Joshua Jackson is hard at work in the labs of Generation 2 Materials Technology (G2MT).*



*Angelique Lasseigne '02 analyzes residual stress in damaged areas of pipelines to improve overall safety.*

damage if leaked during recovery or transmission. Some researchers hypothesize that any gains in improved emissions brought about through increased production of natural gas could be offset by increased leakage of methane into the air. A study from the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science found that if the leakage rises to six percent, then a natural gas plant would contribute more to global warming than a coal plant would over the first 25 years of their life spans.

Reducing pipeline leakage during transfer and transmission, therefore, is a major concern for both industry and the environment.

### Next-generation pipeline assessment

Pipelines stretch more than 2.6 million miles across the United States. Eighty-one percent of the pipelines are for gas distribution and 12 percent for gas transmission and gathering. Pipeline leakage in this extensive network threatens the environment, industry production, and ultimately the viability of natural gas as a

leading domestic source of energy. However, the U.S. Department of Transportation reports that pipelines are the safest method for transporting natural gas, which makes it a more secure source of domestic energy.

Reducing leakage by maintaining pipeline integrity represents a huge investment for oil and gas companies. Current inspection methods involve examining a pipeline internally with a device known as a smart pig (pipeline inspection gauge) and then conducting an exterior inspection of areas where damage—cracks or dents—has been indicated. The exterior inspection usually involves digging up the line and removing the exterior coating for a visual examination of the steel. These labor-intensive inspection practices are costly, putting the cost of pipeline maintenance into billions of dollars a year for large companies and raising additional obstacles to the efficient production of this important energy source.

And these protocols do not evaluate the best predictor of material failure—residual stress.

Recent advancements in the maintenance of natural gas pipelines will improve the safe and efficient transfer of gas from ground to market. When they founded Generation 2 Materials Technology (G2MT) three years ago, Centenary alumna Angelique Lasseigne '02 and co-founder Joshua Jackson saw possibilities for improving leak prevention by developing a more accurate way to evaluate damage. Having both completed a Ph.D. at the Colorado School of Mines, Lasseigne and Jackson are metallurgical engineers who recognized an opportunity to improve safety and reduce failures by offering a method to determine the real integrity of materials.



*Photo courtesy of Chesapeake Energy.*

“Many years of metallurgical research have shown that stress, not geometry, is the most important influence on the potential for failure of a damaged area,” explained Lasseigne. “A re-rounded dent might hold more residual stress than a deep gouge but not even be identified for visual inspection using current inspection protocols.”

The Department of Transportation funded a G2MT project that led to the development of a hand-held tool that can assess residual stress in damaged regions of pipelines through an exterior examination that does not require removal of pipe coatings. Lasseigne and Jackson are now working with the Department of Transportation and partners in the oil and gas industry to test the equipment and gather outcome data.





"The new system will improve pipeline integrity management by coupling quantitative data with advanced modeling techniques to provide an accurate characterization of the stress around a damaged area," promises Jackson. "Our goal is to have a commercial product ready for the market in one to two years."

Improved safety through better prioritization of needed repairs is not the only advantage of this new method for materials assessment. The new system reduces costs by being less invasive and more accurate than current methods.

### A wider vision

Because materials play a critical role in virtually every major industry, the technologies being used to improve pipeline integrity management have applications beyond oil and gas. G2MT also serves the power generation, aerospace, chemical processing, and nuclear industries.

Lasseigne is confident as she confronts complex problems across these varying fields in part because of her Centenary experience.

"My professors never told us, 'This is hard.' Their approach was, 'This is easy. Let's understand it and figure it out.'" This same ethic is reflected in the G2MT company vision to use material technology and knowledge to improve the world.

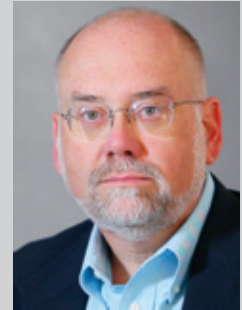
### The Big Picture

Increased oil, natural gas, and renewable energy production and energy efficiency improvements will reduce U.S. reliance on imported energy sources, according to the *2012 Annual Energy Outlook* produced by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The agency's administrator Howard Gruenspecht added, "These projections reflect increased energy efficiency throughout the economy, updated assessments of energy technologies and domestic energy resources, the influence of evolving consumer preferences, and projected slow economic growth."

Scientific innovation like the work of G2MT contributes to more environmentally sensitive processes of production and transportation of natural gas domestically, helping to decrease U.S. dependence on foreign energy imports, while advancing the global shift toward more sustainable energy sources. ■

## ASK THE EXPERT

**How are safety concerns and natural gas prices affecting gas production and the regional economy around the Haynesville Shale in Louisiana and Texas?**



The financial impact of the Haynesville Shale Gas discovery has had a tremendous impact on Northwest Louisiana and East Texas over the last five years. An influx of money came into this region as payments of lease fees to property owners for mineral rights; as expenditures to drill wells; and as paid royalties. At the height of the boom in this part of the country, natural gas was selling at more than three times its current level. A sluggish world economy, multiple mild winters, and the discovery of natural gas shale formations in others parts of the United States and the world are now driving the reduction in price. As always in the market place, the forces of supply and demand determine prices.

Given the current price of natural gas it is no longer profitable for gas companies to expand production. The money spent for lease payments and drilling expenditures has not left our economy; it just no longer continues to increase. Wells that have been drilled continue to produce and royalty payments to land owners continue, but at a reduced rate given the lower price.

In addition, two concerns for safety have reduced the amount of new natural gas exploration and drilling. First, we live in a part of the country where for a number of months each year hurricanes threaten drilling and extraction equipment. Out of a concern for safety, particularly for the men and women operating drilling rigs, drilling and production may be shut down for a period of time thus delaying the extraction and sale of natural gas that leads to royalty payments. Second, many individuals are concerned about the environmental impact of the fracking process. Drilling companies have been increasingly asked to take additional steps to ensure that the surrounding environment, particularly the water shed, is not affected by deep underground drilling. These necessary precautions slow the expansion of further natural gas exploration and production.

Natural gas will continue to be an important part of the economies of Northwest Louisiana and East Texas. Its importance, however, will be smaller than people had hoped from 2008-2010.

*Dr. David Hoaas is Professor of Economics at Centenary.*



# Shreveport (Goes) Green

*Thanks to the work of Shreveport Green, a protected wildflower area flourishes in the middle of the city. Photo courtesy of Shreveport Green.*

Eighty percent of what Americans throw away is recyclable. Americans generate about 250 millions tons of trash per year. According to Environmentalists Every Day—America's Solid Waste Industry, the U.S. maintains a recycling rate of only 34.1 percent by recycling and composting 85 million tons of this material. Were more of the United States committed to recycling, the economic and environmental savings would be huge. For example, if Americans recycled all of the newspapers printed in the United States on a typical Sunday, Americans would save 26 million trees per year.

The principle of sustainability is based on the idea that everything humans need for survival depends upon the natural environment. If humans co-exist with nature—leaving a light carbon footprint and replenishing resources—then the environment will fulfill the needs of present and future generations.

Reducing litter and building successful recycling programs are among the many goals of citizens engaged in promoting sustainability. Sustainability has emerged





Shreveport-based nonprofit Shreveport Green has been leading the charge toward just such a sustainable, healthy, and economically vital community since 1990. Through hands-on stewardship and education, Shreveport Green has promoted a cleaner and greener environment. Alumna Donna Curtis '69 has been the Executive Director of Shreveport Green since its inception. She was introduced to sustainability issues when a fellow Centenary graduate encouraged her to join the board of the Shreveport Beautification Foundation in 1985.

"My life was changed," said Curtis. "I began to put together the puzzle of why some cities seem to flourish and why some communities seem more livable than others. I chose Shreveport as my home, and I've seen the tree canopy decrease; our public areas decline; and our community lag behind other cities."

Curtis worked as a speech pathologist for seven years before focusing all her efforts on volunteering for beautification efforts, which led to Shreveport Green. She was recognized with the Keep America Beautiful Professional Leadership Award in 2001. Curtis also chaired the All-America City award efforts that resulted in the naming of Shreveport as a 1999 All-America City. A contributing member to various nonprofits, she is currently serving on the board of the National Alliance for Community Trees as Past-President.

Much of Shreveport Green's effort has been focused on litter prevention, tree planting and outreach, beautification and community greening, and waste

as a global and local issue as a result of growing concerns about population expansion and consumption of natural resources. Earth's resources are draining so quickly that the World Wildlife Fund has suggested that humans will need two Earths to support their current lifestyle by 2030.

Sustainability initiatives benefit both global and local economies, which has led many to endorse the development of sustainable communities. In an article

for *The Atlantic*, Kaid Benfield, the Sustainable Communities Director for the Natural Resources Defense Council, explained that a sustainable community would be a place "where per capita use of resources and per capita emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants are going down, not up... where land is used efficiently, and shared parks and public spaces are plentiful and easily visited... where industry and economic opportunity emphasize healthy, environmentally sound practices."



reduction. The group was instrumental in the education and outreach that brought curbside recycling to Shreveport in 2008. In the first 18 months of the program, 12,980 tons were recycled. Recycling programs continue to expand nationwide with 9,000 programs currently in existence, up from 8,875 programs available in 2002.

The group has planted 375,000 trees from 1990-2011. The planting of trees provides a number of economic, environmental, sociological, and aesthetic benefits to the community. According to the Sustainable Cities Institute and the National Recreation and Park Association, large trees can add 9 percent to property values and reduce temperatures



*Shreveport Green volunteers put the finishing touches on a newly planted tree. Photo courtesy of Shreveport Green.*

by 27 degrees. Residential buildings with high levels of vegetation have over 50 percent fewer total crimes, and people are drawn to shady, green areas.

For their annual Keep America Beautiful Cleanup, Shreveport Green routinely attracts 1,000 volunteers, making it the largest city- and parish-wide one-day cleanup in America. Volunteer numbers, in general, remain strong year-to-year. Shreveport also recently received a litter rating of 1.36, down from 2.1 in 2007. A litter rating of 4 represents “extremely littered” whereas 1 represents “no litter.”

The Institute for Sustainable Communities, based in Vermont, recommends these integrated solutions as steps to becoming a sustainable community, rather than more fragmented approaches. The Institute also cites sustainable communities as ones that are continually focused on both the present and future. Shreveport Green has applied these principles to its work since its first days as a nonprofit.

However, while many green initiatives were on the organization’s radar in 1990 and remain so, the group’s interests continue to evolve.

“We have become more insistent about sustainability and health,” said Curtis. “We continue to talk about the economic impact of cleaner and greener environments, but we also include sustainability—trees used as energy tools and recycling to reduce the amount of natural materials used. Health-wise, we aim to increase the amount of community gardens to offer citizens healthier diets; construct bike and pedestrian paths to offer citizens the opportunity to exercise outdoors; and plant trees to clean the air naturally.”

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 375K

*Trees planted*

# 9%

*Added to property values*

# 27°

*Temperature reduction*

# 50%

*Less crime in residential buildings with high levels of vegetation*





Shreveport Green has won 17 national awards including six first place Keep America Beautiful National System Awards. But the organization still faces obstacles.

"One hurdle that remains is getting the public officials and developers to buy into the concept that trees and green spaces aren't a luxury—they are a necessity," said Curtis. "Every public works project should have an enhancement or environmental element and the funding for maintenance. Many of our local officials understand this and are working toward it, but the issue continues to be put on the back burner because of budgets."

Budget issues continue to be a bump in the road toward developing sustainable communities. Dr. Steve Cohen of Columbia University's Earth Institute believes that "the field of sustainability argues that we can manage our economy to simultaneously promote environmental protection and economic growth," but it requires "an understanding of the important and legitimate role of an active and competent government in assuring sustainability."

Looking toward the future, Shreveport Green plans to promote healthy lifestyles among youth. The group is part of a coalition of nonprofits that promotes healthy lifestyles. Curtis sees the initiative as imperative considering Louisiana has the second highest ranking in childhood obesity and diabetes:

"'Nature-deficit disorder' is a real problem that affects the self-esteem and health of young people. They are tied more and more to the over-stimulating effects of TV and computers. Participating in outdoor activities increases confidence, lengthens attention span, and encourages physical exercise. By making the outdoors more pleasant through tree plantings and green spaces, we encourage young people to get out and exercise."

The Natural Resources Defense Council describes a sustainable community as "one that can continue in a healthy way into an uncertain future." Shreveport Green advocates for a healthier, greener, more sustainable community so that Shreveport's future can be a little more certain. ■

## ENGAGE

### Sustainable World

Take an in-depth look at the plans for the innovative "Shreveport Common."

<http://bit.ly/OYmXBh>

Follow the evolution of natural gas drilling and transfer methods.

<http://nyti.ms/VADEu>

Join the quest to sustain our resources! Learn about Shreveport Green's Urban Forest Program. <http://bit.ly/VZVwJp>

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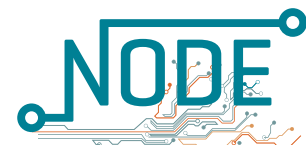
*Santé is a health-focused community centered on improving the care of some of the least advantaged people and improving global health.*



*GreenHouse is open to students who are interested in environmental issues and sustainability.*

## Le Quartier Français

*Le Quartier Français immerses students in the French language experience without leaving the comfort of their dorm.*



*Node focuses on technology, design and media. Social technologies connect citizens to information, to other citizens, and to resources.*

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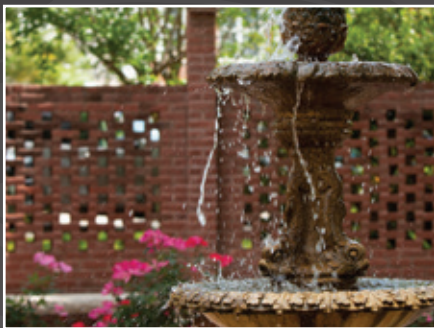
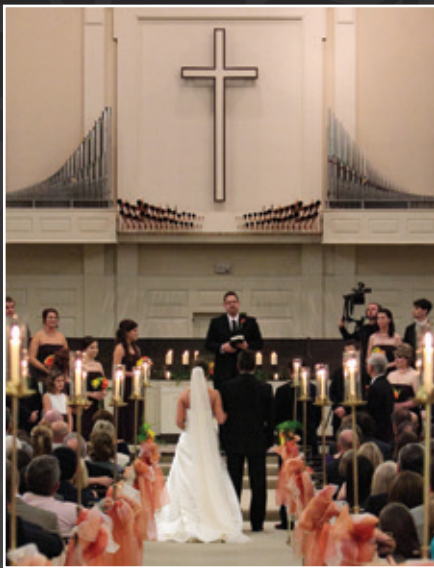


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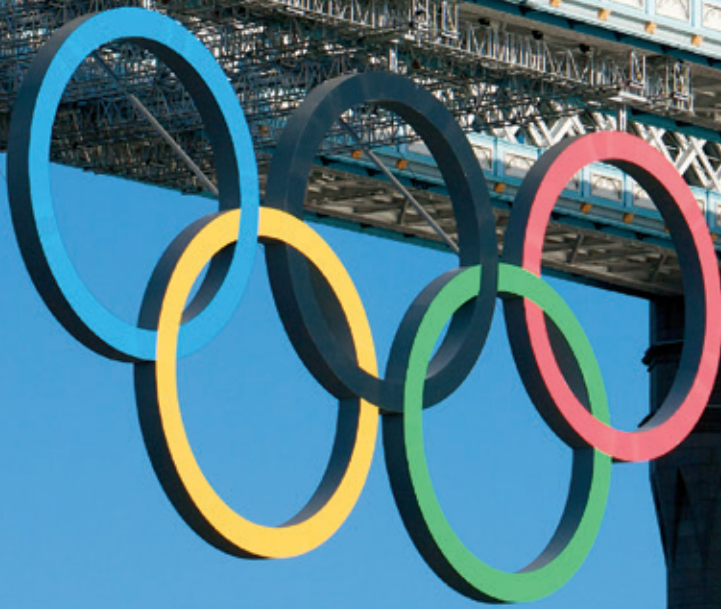


# *Inspiring a Generation*

## 2012 Summer Olympics

“At base, we attend games and we become sports fans because we are enthralled that these young men and women are capable, with their bodies, of what we could never manage with ours. We envy and cheer their graceful superiority. When athletes take performance-enhancing drugs they destroy that basic truth.”

—Frank DeFord '09H  
*NPR commentator and writer*





This year, more than 16,000 athletes competed at the 2012 London Olympics. Long before the athletes arrived in London, officials and scientists were busily preparing a laboratory in Essex. Hailed as the most high-tech facility in the history of the Olympics and estimated to be the size of seven tennis courts, the laboratory was created specifically for anti-doping purposes. The facility ran continuously with a staff of over 1,000 collecting and processing samples for turn-around times as short as 24 hours.

International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge urged Olympians to compete clean:

“Reject doping. Respect your opponents. Remember that you are all role models. If you do that, you will inspire a generation.”

According to a study in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* by Heiko Striegel, about seven percent of young athletes admitted to doping at some point in their career—this would represent a little over 1,000 athletes at this year’s Olympic games.

The topic of clean sport received significant attention as the 2012 Olympic motto and theme was “Inspire a Generation.” The slogan accompanied the launch of the Inspire Programme, an initiative involving more than 10 million people to make real and lasting changes in local communities through sport. London Organizing Committee Chairman Lord Sebastian Coe said, “It is the heartbeat, the very DNA of this organization and a rallying cry for the athletes to come to the UK to perform at their very best and inspire the world. Millions will have been inspired by what they have witnessed over the summer.”

“The first-known Olympic case of doping occurred in the 1904 games when Thomas Hicks ran to victory in the marathon with the help of raw egg, doses of brandy, and injections of strychnine, which is a stimulant...”

### Setting the Gold Standard

The modern-day Olympics began in the late 1800s due to the efforts of Baron Pierre de Coubertin. He lobbied to resurrect the games hoping they would bring back the ideals of physical, mental, and spiritual excellence displayed in ancient times. Coubertin also founded the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and wrote the Athlete’s Oath, which athletes at the first modern Olympics in 1896 took at the opening ceremony—a tradition still in place today:

*In the name of all competitors, I promise that we shall take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules that govern them, in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and the honor of our teams.*

Since then, the Coubertin-founded IOC has worked to uphold the ideals and integrity of the games. IOC efforts are continually hampered by doping among athletes—a problem that has become rampant in the twenty-first century.







## Erosion of Innocence

In 1904, Thomas Hicks ran to Olympic victory in the marathon with the help of raw egg, doses of brandy, and injections of strychnine, which is a stimulant for the nervous system. His medal was never taken away as a reliable testing method was not introduced until 1974.

For its part, the IOC created a Medical Commission in 1967 to deal with doping problems. The Commission was charged with protecting the health of athletes, respecting both medical and sports ethics, and establishing equality for all competing athletes. Beyond promoting anti-doping agendas, the IOC Medical Commission studies alternative methods such as sports medicine and nutrition to help athletes.

The most famous Olympic doping case concerned Canadian Ben Johnson, the 100-metre champion who tested positive for stanozolol, an anabolic steroid, at the 1988 Olympics. He was subsequently stripped of his gold medal.

The East German Olympic teams of the 1970s and 80s were also exposed for having used anabolic steroids. The evidence was not discovered until the fall of the Berlin Wall despite the teams almost doubling their medal wins within a decade.

By the late 1990s, the IOC Medical Commission had taken an even stronger stance on maintaining the integrity of the games by forming the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). WADA works toward a world in which all athletes compete in a doping-free sporting environment. The Agency sets the anti-doping standards for the sporting community all over the globe. Both the IOC and WADA continue to fight for a pure Olympics focused on mind, body, and spirit.

The United Kingdom Anti-Doping Chief Executive Andy Parkinson notes that the intense scrutiny placed on athletes only hampers their efforts for clean competition:

"The pressure on today's athletes, coaches, and indeed nations continues to increase, and the whole sporting community needs to understand this and manage the need to 'win at all costs.' Combine this pressure with the weakness of human nature, and it is easy to see how people are tempted to risk everything for the sake of success."

## A Lifetime of Regret

The creation of the expansive anti-doping station at this year's Olympics came on the heels of the British Olympics Association (BOA) rescinding its lifetime ban for drug offenders. WADA only enforces a two-year ban for athletes caught doping and had declared the BOA noncompliant with its global codes. The BOA has since instituted the two-year punishment.

However, Centenary alumna Kathy Johnson Clarke '81, team captain of the 1984 U.S. Olympic gymnastics team as well as a silver and bronze winner, believes the BOA was on the right track. She hopes to help completely eradicate the use of performance-enhancing drugs in not only the Olympics but all athletics. As a member of the



*Kathy Johnson Clarke '81 led the U.S. gymnastics team at the 1984 Olympics. Photo by Dave Black.*

Advisory Board for Global Sports, Clarke lobbies for athletes to compete clean.

"Being an Olympian is the ultimate honor and privilege, so I believe it should come with the highest level of personal responsibility," said Clarke. "A lifetime ban is an appropriate punishment and the only step toward eradicating drug use in sport."

Clarke was introduced to gymnastics relatively late and began practicing at the age of 12. At Centenary, she developed as a team gymnast, going on to win the American Cup in 1977 and the floor exercise gold and all-around competition silver at the 1977 U.S. Nationals. In 1978, she placed eighth in the all-around for the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships. Though she was named team captain of the American squad, Clarke missed her chance to compete for gold in the 1980 Olympics due to the U.S. boycott of the games. She remained competitive in gymnastics until she was finally able to compete at the 1984 Olympics. Clarke was only the second American female gymnast to receive medals in both the World Championships and the Olympics.



*Above: Former Centenary gymnast Clarke earned two medals at the 1984 Games.*

*Below: Captured in mid-flight, Clarke competes in gymnastics at the Olympics.  
Photo by Dave Black.*



Today, Clarke focuses her attention on improving conditions for gymnasts and other athletes. Beyond her work with the Advisory Board for Global Sports, she serves on the Advisory Committee for Justice for Athletes, an organization supporting the emotional health of young people in sports, and the National Athletic Advisory Board for Athletes for a Better World.

Dr. Jason Maggio '01, who runs Shreveport-based All the Way Health Center, was at this year's Olympic games assisting the athletes as a wellness physician. Though he believes that sanctions for doping are debatable, Maggio found that the new facility kept the playing ground fair and aided in maintaining true sportsmanship.

"The new tests checked for 240 prohibited substances and up to 6,250 samples were checked," said Dr. Maggio. "However, it can be frustrating for the athletes to work that hard and have the media drive the public into thinking, 'Is that natural or even humanly possible?' You bet it is is! It's the Olympics, where amazing awaits!"

### Preparing Mind, Body, and Spirit

Maggio agrees with Olympics founder Coubertin's ideal to focus on the physical, mental, and spiritual excellence of the athlete.

A polyclinic located in Olympic Park served as Maggio's station throughout the games. The facility was deemed a polyclinic as it provided services that ranged from sports medicine and primary care to dentistry. The clinic was a controlled environment in which the medicine and aid given to athletes could be carefully monitored for anti-doping purposes.





## ASK THE EXPERT

### What is like to be an Olympic gymnast in training?



The Olympics happen once every four years, and only five young women are chosen to represent the United States. Training to become an elite international competitor starts when a girl is very young, often around the age of eight. Developing and honing the skills to compete at the Olympics takes supreme dedication and years of training.

There are stages of competition young gymnasts work their way through to become eligible to compete on the USA International team; they start as

young as five years old competing in competitions at lower levels and moving up the ranks as they improve. Most athletes who are talented enough to be considered Olympic level are recognized early and are trained to move towards the elite level.

For Olympic hopefuls, training is their full time job. They will train 35-40 hours per week, usually twice a day, year-round. While some of them continue to attend traditional schools, many of them are home-schooled once they start training that many hours. Many gymnasts will decide to move away from their families to train with a higher level coach and with other athletes who are also elites. There are so few who reach this level they are often the only one in their gym. Our USA team members train primarily at their home gym, and then travel to the

National Training Center in Houston, Texas, one weekend a month (with their personal coach), to work with the National coaching staff. While at the Training Center, they are evaluated and given goals to achieve before the next trip.

Olympic-level training in gymnastics can be very grueling, and the athletes make many sacrifices to have the chance to make an Olympic team. If you ask them or any other gymnast who sacrifices for the sport if it is worth it, you will get a resounding "yes!" The sport of gymnastics develops so many wonderful attributes and life-lessons that in turn help the young women who participate become very successful in life.

*Jacqueline Fain is the Head Women's Gymnastics Coach at Centenary.*

Maggio is a part of Maximized Living, a health delivery system and compliant standard of care for chiropractors. Members of Maximized Living take care of the U.S. World Athletic Teams at international events. He underwent three levels of certification and advanced training in nutrition, detoxification, exercise, and mental wellness to work with Olympians.

After graduating from Centenary, Maggio became fascinated with the chiropractic philosophy—that a person could heal from within without the use of drugs or surgery.

"I hope that I've been as much of a blessing to the athletes as they have been to me," said Maggio. "There is something very different about the mindset of an Olympian. Our athletes were ready—mind, body, and spirit. The decisions, dedications, and desires that these athletes have taught me will absolutely make me a better doctor and person and have changed my life forever."

### Always an Olympian

Despite IOC President Rogge's warnings to compete clean, the World Anti-Doping Agency reported that over 100 potential Olympians were stopped from competing at the Games because of doping, while the International Olympic Committee announced a number of positive tests during the course of the Games. Mere hours after the closing ceremony of the Olympics, Nadzeya Ostapchuk, a shot putter from Belarus, was stripped of gold for testing positive for steroids. She was the eighth athlete caught doping during the 2012 London Olympics.

UK Anti-Doping Chief Executive Parkinson sees the athletes caught doping as a victory for clean competition and the portent of good things to come:

"In the blink of an eye the London 2012 Olympic Games are over, leaving us with fantastic memories, amazing athletic



*Dr. Jason Maggio '01 (right) served Olympic athletes such as Shreveporter Kendrick Farris (left) as a wellness physician at the 2012 Summer Games.*

performances and a legacy to inspire a generation through sport. For the global anti-doping community this means a legacy of clean sport, where tomorrow's athletes believe in striving to be the best they can without the use of performance enhancing substances."

The Olympics remain a time-honored tradition, where nations come together to see men and women push beyond their limits to achieve gold. Both Maggio and Clarke treasure the once-in-a-lifetime experience that connected them to the world-at-large.

"It's incredibly fulfilling to be part of something so much bigger than yourself, to be a part of history," said Clarke. "Winning a medal at the Olympics with my teammates forever changed us and bound us together in a very powerful way. Never former, never past, always an Olympian."

Baron Pierre de Coubertin originally set forth an Olympic Creed that encouraged the clean, competitive spirit—something that Maggio, Clarke, and the many other Olympic supporters are striving for every day: *The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well.* ■

*Below: The Olympic Stadium formed the centerpiece of the 2012 Summer Games in London.*







# Reforming Education: A Passion for Change

To position the United States for the future, substantial investments are needed in research, infrastructure, and education. The most important of these is education.

*The Competition that Really Matters*  
Center for American Progress



A March 2012 report by the Cowen Institute for Public Education Initiatives stated that Louisiana ranks between 46th and 48th in the country in 4th and 8th grade English and math scores on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP), a common student learning metric. However, in the 2012 edition of the annual Quality Counts assessment of American education and reform initiatives, the state showed a more positive trajectory in several important areas. Louisiana's most recent ranking was 23rd nationally and a grade of C+, including a national 2nd place ranking for standards, assessment, and accountability.

Louisiana was ahead of the No Child Left Behind curve on accountability and assessment when state government under Governor Mike Foster began collecting and studying relevant K-12 education data in 1997. The foundation for new systems and reforms was laid early, including new transparency protocols that included public exposure of individual school performance. In 2003 under Governor Kathleen Blanco, the state



*Rayne Martin '96*

responded to the dire situation facing many schools in the New Orleans area by creating the Recovery School District (RSD). The role of the RSD would be to take over and turn around failing schools across the state, work that gained prominence following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

In 2007, Centenary alumna Rayne Martin '96 entered the fray of education reform in Louisiana, going to work for the RSD where she served in several roles, including Chief of Staff to the Superintendent. She grew up in the tiny Louisiana hamlet of Castor and attended a K-12 community school with roughly 200 students and a graduating class of just 17. Martin recognized her burning passion for change at a young age and flexed her activist muscle early by protesting middle-school worksheets she viewed as "symbolic of an entrenched culture of low expectations."

---

"I was always ok with it for myself, but it really bothered me that my friends were getting robbed of the opportunities that we would talk about when we were 12 years old."

---

She recounts an experience from her high school days as one of the reasons she is committed to reforming and improving public education. One of her best friends talked to the school's guidance counselor about preparing for college and asked about taking the ACT. The guidance counselor told him that he was not college bound and insisted taking the exam would be a waste of the \$25 test fee. When Martin found out, she stepped in and helped her friend register for the test. She is proud to say that her friend is now the only alumnus from her high school graduating class to have earned a graduate degree.

Martin's passion quickly translated into action and accomplishment at the RSD. She was soon placed in charge of the state's application for "Race to the Top," a competitive federal grant program that encourages states to implement dramatic education reform measures. In response to that application, Louisiana was selected as a finalist. She was also the lead author on the Louisiana Education Reform Plan, a 200-page strategic plan for drastically improving student learning outcomes across the state.

In 2010, Martin became the Chief of Innovation for the Louisiana Department of Education where she managed a large staff and a budget of \$60 million. Her involvement included a focus on building awareness around key reform issues and building both statewide and district-level capacity for new initiatives and standards. She helped write new parameters for



*Local school children listen to presentations by Centenary students David Micinski '11 (front left) and Jacob Jones '10 (in back).*





## BY THE NUMBERS

LOUISIANA  
SCHOOLS

Source: US  
Department of  
Education's National  
Center for Education  
Statistics, Common  
Core of Data,  
2010-11

**\$10,684**

*Per-pupil expenditures*

**48,665**

*Number of FTE teachers*

**1,509**

*Number of Louisiana schools*

**696,558**

*Students enrolled*

performance evaluations of both teachers and principals, gathering input from over 10,000 Louisiana educators. Her work contributed to improvements in identifying and supporting excellent teachers, and Louisiana ranked 11th in the nation for "Teaching Profession" in the 2012 Quality Counts survey.

Earlier this year, Martin continued on her mission of improving education when she became the very first Executive Director of Stand for Children in Louisiana. Stand for Children is a national, nonprofit organization with the mission of ensuring that all children graduate from high school prepared for college. She works directly with parents, community groups, and policymakers to increase local demand for excellent public schools and drive policies to improve educational opportunities for every child.

In her remarks at the 2004 Centenary College President's Convocation, Martin said "life is about serving others."

"It was through my Centenary education that I learned how to learn, how to think for myself, how to lead a team, and how to intelligently articulate my views." As a leader engaged in the challenging realm of education reform, she employs these qualities to help improve education and life opportunities for children both today and in the future. ■



## ASK THE EXPERT

**What education reform initiatives are gaining the most traction across the country today?**

As we consider education reform initiatives, we must look at the interaction and, sometimes, contradiction between local, state, and federal initiatives. High stakes standardized testing, a by-product of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, is currently intersecting with The Common Core State Standards Initiative, an effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers. The Common Core Standards apply to K-12 English language arts and mathematics; currently, 45 states, including Louisiana, have formally adopted the standards and 23 of these states, including Louisiana, have joined the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers to develop new high-stakes tests for the standards. Thus, Louisiana students may experience as many as three different sets of standardized tests between 2006 and 2014.

In the midst of such large scale initiatives, it can be easy to lose sight of local and grassroots initiatives that seek to address local school and student needs. One such initiative is school gardens. Although gardens have been around in schools in the U.S. since the early 1900's, the past decade has seen a dramatic increase in the number of school gardens. The state of California has even called for a garden in every school, authorizing \$15 million in grants to promote, develop, and sustain instructional school gardens. Often initially a response to growing childhood obesity and children's lack of outdoor exposure, school gardens can also offer enrichment to traditional subjects, address issues of sustainability, and build community among students, parents, and community members.

In Shreveport-Bossier, Dr. Grace Peterson of the LSU Ag Center established the Valencia Youth Garden and Urban Farm located between Stoner Hill Elementary and Caddo Magnet High School where children learn to grow, harvest, and prepare healthy foods. On our own campus, Dr. Troy Messina secured funding in 2011 to start the Centenary College Community Gardens. Sometimes the most meaningful initiatives begin in your own backyard (or schoolyard).

*Dr. Karen Soul is the Associate Provost of the College and Associate Professor of Education.*



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# Finding Common Ground in Our Nation's Capital

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The public's approval of Congress hovers at historically low levels, according to recently released Gallup polls. In February 2012, when asked "Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?" only 10 percent of Americans approved, marking the lowest approval rating ever.

A May 2012 report from the *National Journal* revealed just how polarized Congress has become. The publication reviewed Senate voting records over the last 30 years and found that in 2011, for the first time ever, no senator crossed party lines when casting his or her ballot.

"It's as bad as I've seen it, but it's not bad in the sense that people are fighting all the time," says Centenary alumna Laura Bozell '01, who has more than a decade of experience working on Capitol Hill in the U.S. House of Representatives. "It's bad in the sense that instead of fighting and having open discourse, people aren't doing anything. There is no dialogue."

During the fall of 2011, Bozell had a front row seat to one of the year's more politically polarizing undertakings. She worked with the "Super Committee," a special joint committee of Congress charged with finding at least \$1.2 trillion



*Former Capital Hill staffer, Laura Bozell Walker '01 worked with the "Super Committee" in the fall of 2011.*

in deficit reduction to avoid automatic, across-the-board spending cuts. Many national media outlets and political pundits pronounced the Super Committee a failure, but Bozell offers a different take on the experience.

"While the Super Committee wasn't ultimately able to agree on one cost-saving proposal, it did lay a lot of the ground work for us to work in a bipartisan fashion on subsequent legislation—the payroll tax extension," says Bozell. "Thanks to relationships forged during that period, we were able to work together in a more col-

laborative way to get that bill over the finish line. In the end, the payroll tax extension was successful because both sides gave a little." The bill was signed into law by President Obama in February 2012.

Bozell joined then Congressman Jim McCrery's legislative team just after graduating from Centenary in 2001. She served for five-and-a-half years in McCrery's office before moving to the House's Ways and Means Committee, where she worked an additional five-and-a-half years.

Bozell, who recently joined the bipartisan, D.C.-based Cornerstone Group as a vice

president, credits the Centenary classroom with providing an early example of how to work together respectfully and collaboratively. "The small classroom size at Centenary encourages open dialogue. Professors also encouraged open discussion and never discouraged students from sharing their viewpoint, even if they didn't agree with it," offers Bozell.

"At Centenary, there was always an emphasis on being honest, on being people of integrity," she adds. "That goes a long way in this town. Ultimately, you earn the trust of the people you're working with by being an honest player." ■



## ASK THE EXPERT

**What was one thing that impacted the 2012 presidential election that you did not expect?**

The most surprising feature of the 2012 election has been the focus on Medicare reform, and in particular, that Republicans have initiated the debate. Medicare is an extremely popular government program, and as the party representing limited government ideals and curbing social spending, the Republican Party is usually vulnerable to attacks based on Medicare.

The Republican Party in the past has proposed reforms that use a voucher system for Medicare or privatize Social Security, but these have generally not been received well. These proposals have also typically taken the form of Congressional bills rather than election year platform planks. Elderly voters turn out at very high rates, and voters in general are very risk averse when it comes to altering social services. This is why Medicare and especially Social Security (which has been virtually ignored in all the talk about government spending and the deficit) have been "third rail" issues in American politics.

Romney and the Republicans seem to be trying to capitalize on voter dissatisfaction with Obamacare by pointing out how the health care reform will affect Medicare spending. However, given Paul Ryan's support for the same Medicare reforms and the Romney/Ryan plan to eventually turn Medicare into a voucher system, this is a very risky tactic. While the Romney ticket has repeatedly tried to assure elderly voters that nothing about Medicare will change for those over the age of 55, they are still in danger of alienating elderly voters who make up a key demographic in the important swing state of Florida. Given President Obama's vulnerability on economic issues, it is surprising that the Republicans have been so willing to make an issue that has long been a strength for Democrats a major focus of this campaign.

*Dr. Christopher Parker is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Centenary.*

## ENGAGE Meaningful Life

This is the first year for the implementation of the national education common core standards. Review them for yourself: <http://bit.ly/XMknB>

Centenary students have the opportunity to study in the nation's capital. Learn more about the Washington Semester Program here: <http://bit.ly/SVE4Ep>

Did you know that there are over 150 substances banned for participants in the Olympics? See the comprehensive list here: <http://bit.ly/SYZhs3>



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## A FINAL WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I came to Centenary three years ago, I said Centenary College will define church-related liberal arts education for the twenty-first century. Building on what has always been Centenary's strength, the arts and sciences disciplines, our faculty have designed a curriculum focused on the three global challenges that organize the content of this publication.

When we talk about defining church-related liberal arts education for the twenty-first century, we are talking specifically about engaging the challenges of the twenty-first century using the dispositions developed by the arts and sciences disciplines. Our students gain the content mastery and the leadership capacities to respond to complex challenges with creativity and curiosity.

When we talk about defining church-related liberal arts education for the twenty-first century, we are talking specifically about taking seriously our role in local and global action-oriented communities where we can exhibit compassion and commitment to a set of values and ideals that are bigger than ourselves.

We believe that our students ought to **EXPAND THEIR CIRCLES** of relationships so that they can find ways to encounter people who are fundamentally different than they are and engage them with civility and create peaceful social arrangements.

We believe that our students ought to learn to live a **MEANINGFUL LIFE** not just so that they can have a prosperous life, but so that they can bring prosperity and meaning to the lives of others. We believe that they can put the needs of others above their own and attend with compassion to those in the greatest need. We believe that they can help others live up to their full potential, even as they strive for theirs.

We believe that our students ought to learn to live a **SUSTAINABLE LIFE** not simply so that they can learn to be good stewards of resources for which they are responsible, but so that they can help sustain this planet and nurture and enhance the creation and the good natural resources for which we are responsible.

*Encircle* communicates to the world at large the ways in which our alumni, faculty, and students are living, learning, and leading in our world. Centenary College IS defining church-related liberal arts education for the 21st century. Not because we can. But because we must.

*David Rowe is the 30th President of Centenary College of Louisiana.*





*The Paul Marvin Brown, Jr., Society*

# PLANNED *Giving*

What legacy will you leave in the world? How will your legacy impact Centenary College? A planned gift to the College can provide financial flexibility and tax benefits, but more importantly, it can have a real and lasting impact on our students. As Centenary develops leaders for a changing world, your planned gift will help prepare Centenary graduates to engage the world's greatest challenges. Give to the world through Centenary, and define your legacy today.

The **Paul Marvin Brown, Jr., Society** honors alumni and friends who include Centenary College in their estate plans. These gifts of future support will play an extraordinary role in ensuring Centenary's continued commitment to students, faculty, and the liberal arts.



*Your gift will make a difference.*



For more information, please contact David Henington  
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**[centenary.edu/leavealegacy](http://centenary.edu/leavealegacy)**

# DEVELOPING LEADERS FOR A CHANGING WORLD

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Centenary College is a selective, residential, liberal arts college. Personal and transformative, we are developing leaders for a changing world.





# ENCIRCLE

The background of the entire page is a vibrant, painterly illustration of a rural African landscape. In the center, a traditional building with a red-tiled, conical roof and white walls sits on a grassy hill. The surrounding area is lush with green trees and vegetation. In the foreground, a dirt path leads towards the building, and several people are walking along it. Some of the people are carrying large, colorful water jugs on their heads. The overall scene is bright and colorful, with a warm, sunny atmosphere.

FALL 2013

## A YOUNG

# Hope

### EDUCATING AFRICA'S EMERGING LEADERS

**National Parks in Peril  
The Black Gold Battle  
Straying from the Flock  
Plus: Ask the Experts**





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*A Young Hope – page 5*



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*The Black Gold Battle – page 18*

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# Centenary

Tier One National Liberal Arts College  
- U.S. News & World Report

Named in "Best Colleges in the South" and  
"Best Private Colleges"  
- Forbes Magazine

"Best 378 Colleges" for 2013  
- Princeton Review

Top Liberal Arts Colleges  
contributing to the Public Good  
- Washington Monthly

Top 25 Colleges with the  
Best Professors  
- CBS MoneyWatch

DEVELOPING LEADERS FOR A CHANGING WORLD



***Encircle* features are divided into three categories based on 21st-century global challenges as identified by Centenary faculty and engaged by our students and graduates.**



### **Expanding Circles**

Our challenge is to expand our circle to promote respectful engagement with a broader world. In the 21st century, not everyone shares the same values or experiences, and conflict exists. Through exploration and discussion of our differences, we must work to create the common ground necessary to build peaceful, just, and mutually beneficial relationships.



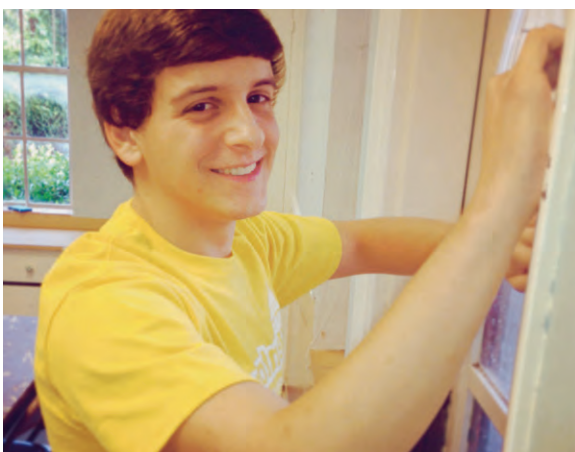
### **Sustainable Life**

Our challenge is to develop sustainable lifestyles and appreciate the natural environment in ways that do not compromise the capacity of future generations to satisfy their needs. We must learn how to lead a sustainable life, work to devise solutions to problems that use our planet's resources wisely, and create sustainable, just, and compassionate systems.



### **Meaningful Life**

Our challenge is to identify and live intentionally our deeply held values, ideals, and beliefs while respecting the values and beliefs of others. By approaching the world with an open mind, we search for meaning and purpose. We must explore our passions, question assumptions, and strive toward our potential so as to help others live their potential as well.



# ENCIRCLE

*Encircle* is published by  
Centenary College of Louisiana  
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FALL 2013

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## ON THE COVER:

The Kwang Lim Chapel at Africa University. Africa University has an increasing number of international students in addition to their native scholars all seeking to grow spiritually, receive an education, and build leadership skills.

## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

### **Creativity and curiosity.**

Centenary College is developing leaders for a changing world. Our mission transforms students into graduates who engage global challenges and reach their full potential.

Our graduates have always been leaders in the world – problem-solvers. Two important attributes of problem-solvers are creativity and curiosity. Artists apply creativity, approaching the world with a unique perspective to create works that intrigue and inspire. Scientists employ curiosity, asking new and different questions to formulate innovative solutions.

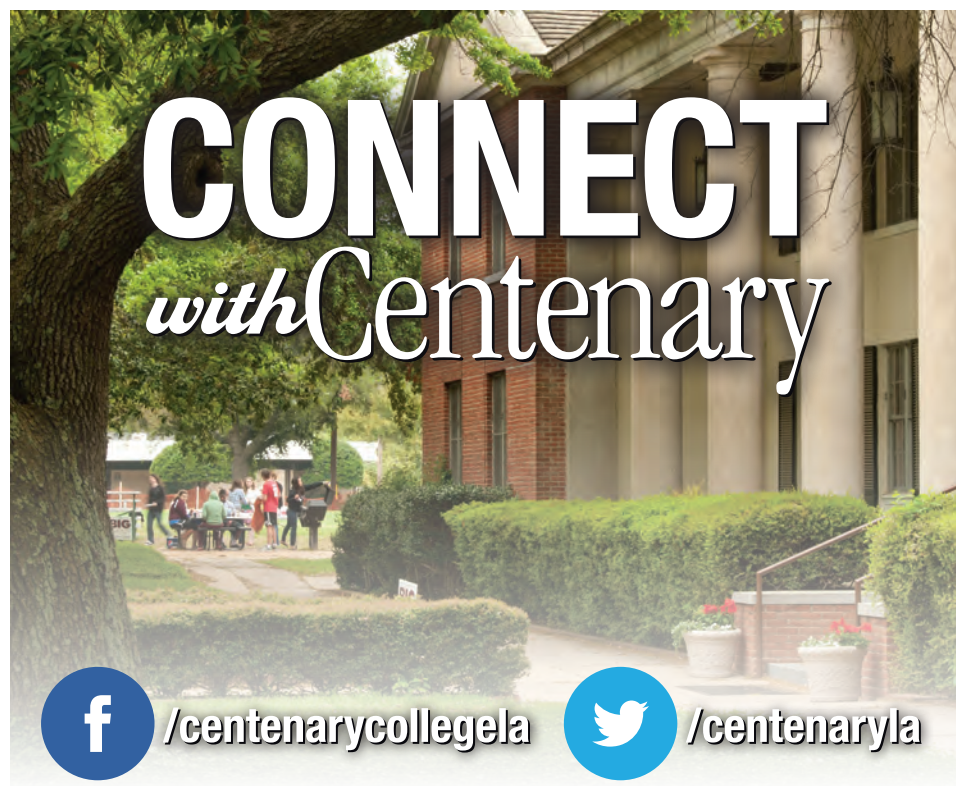
Every edition of *Encircle* features stories of challenges and those who rise to meet them. This fall, the discussion turns to several important issues: glacier ice melt, energy and pipelines, generational shifts in religion, and higher education in the third world. These are big issues with no easy answers and many points of view. The common thread in each story is the Centenary leaders and others who are stepping up to the challenge.

We hope these stories inspire you.



MATT BAILEY

*Senior Director of External Relations*



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# *A Young Hope*



**Educating Africa's Emerging  
LEADERS**





With over 200 million people aged 15 to 24, Africa has the youngest population in the world. The current trend indicates that this figure will double by 2045, according to a World Bank survey. Education and employment continue to be major challenges for Africa, and this “youth bulge” has exacerbated those issues.

According to UNESCO, illiteracy and lack of regular school attendance are rampant among children and adolescents. Those who do pass through primary and secondary school to attend college represent only 5 percent of all young people in sub-Saharan Africa, a significant increase—and a sign of hope—since the 1 percent attendance rate in

the 1990s. The World Bank reports that this growth in enrollment is outstripping the financial capacity of universities to provide staff and facilities. Yet experts, including academics Glen Fisher and Ian Scott, agree that “higher education has a uniquely important role in resolving the persistent skills shortage [in Africa] by producing qualified graduates and postgraduates and by generating research and innovation.”

Africa currently has about 800 universities and more than 1,500 institutions of higher learning, but the continent’s research output has declined since the 1980s. African youth also continue to account for 60 percent of total unemployment. According to the World Bank, education remains one of the most powerful instruments for reducing poverty and inequality, laying

“Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

a foundation for sustained economic growth. The need for better access to higher education along with a shortage of resources has led and continues to lead African leaders to seek outside help.

## We can share

The appeal for help first came in the 1980s. At that time, the World Bank decided to focus its efforts on primary education, decreasing its higher education funding in Africa by 82



*Africa University is situated in the Nyagambu River valley, some 17 kilometers west of Zimbabwe’s fourth largest city, Mutare.*





*Remote learning at Africa University.*

percent per capita. The dramatic decrease led advocates to seek other avenues of funding for higher education. In 1984, Bishop Emilio de Carvalho of Angola and Bishop Arthur Kulah of Liberia, both of the United Methodist Church (UMC), appealed to the UMC's General Board of Higher Education and Ministry which develops leaders for the church and for the world—a mission that perfectly aligned with the Bishops' vision. They wanted the church conference to help build a university to develop future leaders of Africa. Their vision would eventually become what is now known as Africa University in Zimbabwe.

Centenary's late trustee Dr. Nancy M. Carruth '82DHL was one of Africa University's earliest and strongest proponents. She traveled to Liberia and Zimbabwe on the site-selection committee and presented the formal founding proposal at the 1988 United Methodist Annual Conference. In her speech from the conference floor, she said, "Saying 'yes' is a vote for the students of Africa University and future leadership on the African continent."

Carruth's emphasis on the university's enduring purpose of developing leaders touched Lisa Tichenor, a delegate at the conference and the mother of Centenary alumnus Taylor Tichenor '08. Tichenor has served on the Africa University development committee since 1989, raising both awareness and funds for the effort.

"It was John Wesley who said that the world is our parish," said Tichenor. "There are really no boundaries in our world anymore. By accident of birth, a billion people don't have the same access to education and general services that we do. It just makes sense that we can share."

Africa University, established by the United Methodist Church in 1992, now draws students from all over Africa and had more than 1,300 students in 2012-13. The institution's vision is to become a world-class university for leadership development. Developing leaders is just one similarity it shares with Centenary.

"The university looks like the Centenary campus—a beautiful campus—set in a rural area of Zimbabwe," Tichenor said about her visit to the campus in 2009. "Students who graduate from there go on to get doctorates from around the world."

## BY THE NUMBERS

**167**

*million Sub-Saharan adults lack basic literary skills*

**297**

*million Sub-Saharan Africans are between the ages of 10 and 24*

**10**

*million children drop out of school in Sub-Saharan Africa every year*

**74**

*million jobs created in Africa from 2000-2008 were for 15-24 year olds*



“Young people really are dreamers.  
They dream of a better kind of world.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Despite Africa University's success and growth, sub-Saharan African nations still face many hurdles when it comes to higher education. Many of the positive upswings are coupled with a downward trend. In sub-Saharan Africa, 4.5 million students were enrolled in higher education in 2008, twice the number in 1999, but the region's rate of enrollment remained at 6 percent, far lower than the world average of 26 percent.

## Leaders developing leaders

Reverend Mande “Guy” Muyombo is a leader developed and inspired by those who came before him. He earned both a bachelor and master's degree from Africa University while also learning to speak English.

“I call Mande my ‘proof of concept’ of Africa University,” said Tichenor. “He is the exact reason why we should continue to support Africa University. We are creating leaders in Africa for Africa.”

Today, Muyombo is using the education and leadership skills gained from his time at Africa University in his native Congo as Director of Kamina Methodist University. Once



*Muyombo speaks on the power of education and his work to educate former Congolese child soldiers.*

the avenues of communication with other Africans were open, Muyombo quickly came to the conclusion that “we are all human beings and deserve to live in peace.” This bit of wisdom has served as the foundation for Kamina United Methodist University's mission of “sustaining the peace necessary for integral development.”

Under Muyombo's leadership, enrollment at Kamina has grown rapidly from 144 students in 2006 to 540 future leaders in 2011-12. This is no small feat in a nation that counts armed conflict as one of the major barriers to education for its youth. Of the 35 countries affected by armed conflict in the past nine years, 15 were in sub-Saharan Africa.

UNESCO reports that in 2007, hundreds of school children were serving in the war-torn North Kivu province of the Congo and many were recruited directly from their classrooms. Muyombo works through Kamina to create a center for emerging Congolese leaders—one that includes these former child soldiers. Just as he claims to “understand the meaning of resurrection through Africa University” Muyombo hopes that education will be the key to bringing peace and development to the Congo—a message he wants to share with a wider audience.

## Global becomes local

Muyombo traveled to Shreveport this September as a special guest of Centenary's World House for Social Justice. Current Centenary student





*Tendresse Kapalang-A-Sul '14 returned to the Congo in summer 2013 visiting an orphanage, Jamaa Letu, on a mission trip.*

Tendresse Kapalang-A-Sul '14 made special plans to attend as she is a native of the Congo and knew Muyombo as a child. Her family moved to Belgium when Sul was 12 so that her father, a United Methodist pastor, could study theology and obtain a Ph.D. The family has since returned, and Sul hopes to rejoin them soon to put her Centenary education to use:

"My heart is saddened, but at the same time, it [higher education in Africa] revolts me and pushes me to study more so I can go back to my country and help in some way. Congo is my heart. I would love to live in a place where I feel useful."

Sul sought out Centenary for its pre-

med program and ties to the United Methodist Church. She is using every aspect of her Centenary experience to prepare for the future.

---

"Do it with love.  
I believe education  
is a powerful tool  
that can help the  
continent of Africa  
go forward."

---

*Tendresse Kapalang-A-Sul '14*

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"I am active in the Diversity Committee," said Sul. "We work to inform people about different cultures and ethnicities,

breaking down stereotypes. The Diversity Committee is a stepping stone, allowing you to incite change around campus, and it is preparing me to be able to help incite the same change in my own country."

Sul is on track to graduate this May with plans to continue her education by pursuing a master's degree. She hopes that one day a larger population of Africa's youth will get the opportunity to experience higher education as she has and encourages those who want to make a difference to get started:

"Go ahead! Do it with love. I believe education is a powerful tool that can help the continent of Africa go forward."



## “Our hope”

The problems facing Africa—lack of education, unemployment, rising population—are not going away. The United Nations Population Division has predicted that Africa's population will reach approximately four billion people by 2100. According to *Washington Post* writer Max Fisher, this population explosion is “nearly unprecedented in human history... there will be four times the workforce, four times the resource burden, four times as many voters. The rapid growth will likely transform political and social dynamics within African countries and thus their relationship with the rest of the world.”

The Archbishop Desmond Tutu met with other African leaders in 2012 to discuss the need for education reform, job creation and mentoring, and access to capital. One of the most pressing questions discussed was how young people's voices could be heard in a continent where the average age of political leaders is 62. Addressing the youth in the audience, Archbishop Tutu encouraged them to step up:

“Young people really are dreamers. They dream of a better kind of world. Don't be affected by the cynicism of ‘oldies’ like us. Go ahead and dream of a different kind of world. You young people are our hope.” ■

## ASK THE EXPERT

**With the urgent challenges faced by those in the developing world, how does increasing access to higher education help drive political progress in those countries and regions?**



Increasing access to higher education is certainly not the most urgent short-term priority for many countries in the developing world – that might be containing military conflict, controlling AIDS and malaria, or reducing the most extreme poverty. But where positive longer-term political change is concerned, higher education can play a vital role in several ways. First, developing countries are often governed by parties or factions that monopolize access to government jobs, financial resources, information, or public services. Colleges and universities can bend or break these monopolies by offering students the skills necessary to mobilize for political accountability and responsiveness. Through exchanges, research collaboration, and travel these students and graduates can also participate in networks of like-minded people facing similar challenges in other cities, regions, or countries. These networks are valuable social resources, whether graduates aspire to increase agricultural efficiency in their home villages or found international NGOs. Finally, higher education often expands students' knowledge of the legal and political norms that are associated with political stability and economic success elsewhere. This knowledge, reinforced by the skills and networks just mentioned, can lead to increased expectations of political transparency, rights protection, and the rule of law.

*Dr. Matt Murphy is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Centenary College.*

## ENGAGE

### Expanding Circles

Learn more about UNESCO's efforts to overhaul and reform education in Africa.

[unesco.org](http://unesco.org)

Much of Africa's future depends on economic stability and growth. Check the numbers.

[africaneconomicoutlook.org](http://africaneconomicoutlook.org)





# WORLD HOUSES

## LEARN, LIVE, AND LEAD

AT CENTENARY COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA



*Our challenge*  
is living a  
meaningful life -  
our response is  
the **Social Justice**  
**World House**



*Our challenge*  
is expanding our  
circles -  
our response is the  
**Peace World House**

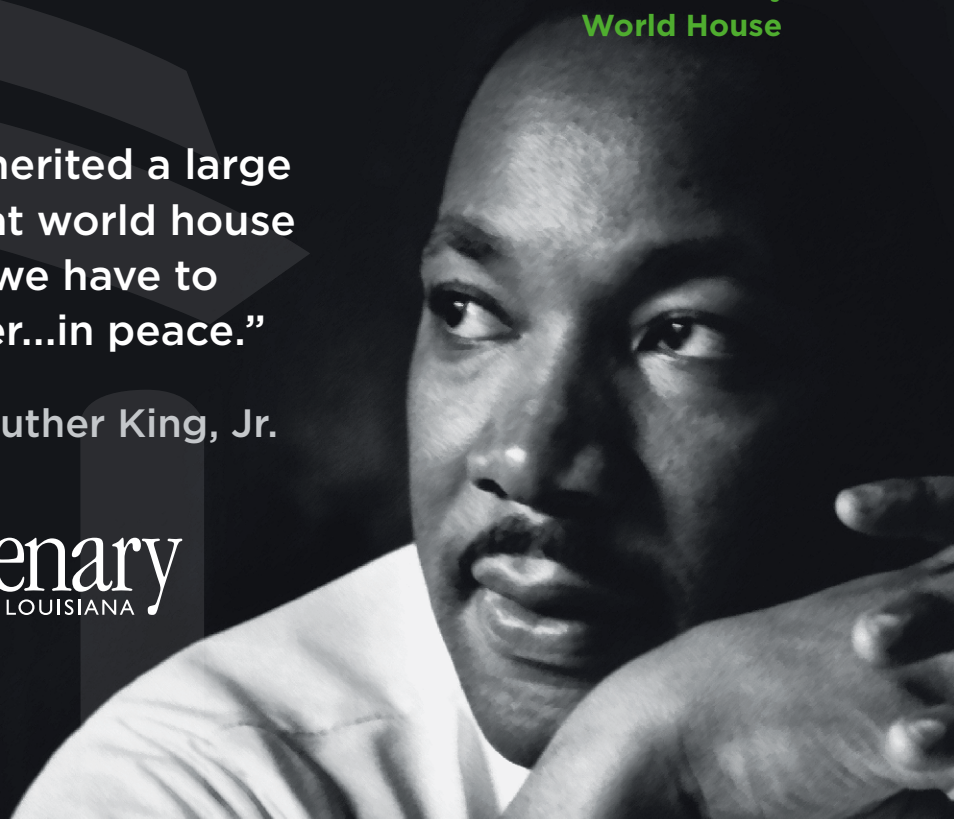


*Our challenge*  
is living a sustainable  
life - our response is  
the **Environmental**  
**Sustainability**  
**World House**

**“We have inherited a large  
house, a great world house  
in which we have to  
live together...in peace.”**

**- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**Centenary**  
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# CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES



NA

IN





E

TIONAL  
PARKS  
PERIL

**“Regardless of people’s opinion of the causes of climate change—it is real, and we saw it in the national parks. Glaciers are retreating.**

Pristine park waters are showing chemical changes that indicate stressors on the reproductive success and food sources of migrating species. Wildfires are becoming more common.”



*Cherry Payne '74*

Cherry Payne '74 gained first-hand knowledge of the devastating affects climate change can have in her over thirty-four year career as a park ranger. The national parks serve as visible examples of how climate change can affect natural and cultural resources, according to National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis:

“Climate change challenges the very foundation of the National Park System and our ability to leave America’s natural and cultural heritage unimpaired for future generations.”



*Payne hiking with a llama in Rocky Mountain National Park after an early fall snow.*





These climate change challenges were particularly evident to Payne while she worked in Glacier Bay National Park and the Everglades National Park. Glacier Bay National Park, located in the Alaskan panhandle, is home to ice fields, expansive river and stream systems, and tidewater glaciers, covering 5,130 square miles. The Park also features valleys that reveal the scars of advancing and retreating glaciers dating back 115,000 years. Payne served as Glacier Bay's Park Superintendent from 2007 to 2010 and was responsible for all aspects of park operations.

The National Park Service describes Glacier Bay as a dynamic place that they consider a “living laboratory, a place to observe how life returns in the wake of retreating ice. Glacier Bay celebrates change and natural processes.” Glacier Bay has also become a laboratory in which to most clearly observe the effects of global warming.

“In Alaska, climate change seems to be occurring exponentially faster,” said Payne. “The terrestrial glaciers are melting.”

Indeed, according to the National Park Service, warming is more pronounced at higher latitudes, and Alaska's annual average temperature has increased at more than twice the rate of the United States average. Additionally, 95 percent of the more than 100,000 glaciers in Alaska are thinning, stagnating, or retreating.

The Natural Resources Defense Council notes that rising global temperatures will



*Alsek Glacier in Glacier Bay National Park.*





speed up the melting of glaciers, which has global implications. Scientists at the U.S. Center for Atmospheric Research predict that if the current rate of global warming continues, the Arctic could be ice-free by the summer of 2040 with polar ice caps melting at a rate of nine percent per decade. Rapid calving, or the breaking of chunks of ice at the edge of a glacier, contributes significantly to sea level rise, according to NASA. In turn, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change forecasts sea levels rising 10 to 23 inches by the start of the next century.

Though Glacier Bay follows these trends, Payne notes that there are a few exceptions:

“While most folks associate glacial melting with climate change, many of the coastal glaciers in Glacier Bay continue to advance or remain static due to warm waters off the coast that bring moisture-laden clouds to the adjacent 5-mile high mountain range.”

A Glacier Bay National Park official calls the coastal glaciers Payne refers to a “rarity.”

Prior to her time at Glacier Bay, Payne was witness to one of the domino effects of climate change on glacier melt—rising sea levels—as Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services at Everglades National Park. The Everglades National Park remains

one of the largest parks in the country, with 1.5 million acres of subtropical wilderness featuring marshes, mangroves, and alligator holes. The Park itself only represents one-fifth of the historic Everglades, according to UNESCO.

“The Everglades have a complex hydrological system with the mixing of freshwater and salt, creating one of the most productive estuaries in the world,” said Payne. “With sea levels rising due to climate change, we were and are seeing intrusions of salt water into historically freshwater areas—changing habitats from freshwater plant species and associated biota to salt-tolerant mangroves.”

## *Are you prepared to make a **difference** in the world?*

At Centenary, **Student Development** is **Leadership Development**. Students Learn, Live, and Lead together, stepping up to and responding to the Global Challenges of the 21st Century to create a more peaceful, just and sustainable world.



***centenary.edu/studentdev***



The Natural Resources Defense Council confirms Payne's observations, claiming that current rates of sea-level rise are expected to increase as a result of thermal expansion and melting glaciers. Consequences include loss of coastal wetlands and a greater risk of flooding.

## Leading the world in preservation

Rather than look for ways to reverse what had already been done to the environment, NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis instead encouraged National Park rangers to work to offset contributions to global warming in the future: "We're not going to stop climate change tomorrow, but we can help slow it down, adapt, lead the world, and preserve these extraordinary places."

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*"Fall in love with the natural resource! Enjoy what you love and learn about it. Develop your sense of curiosity and wonder."*

*Cherry Payne '74*

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Payne and her co-workers at both Glacier Bay and the Everglades took significant steps to address the effects of climate change on the natural park environments. They conducted workshops to assess their carbon footprint from daily operations, converting to hybrid or electric vehicles and encouraging carpooling as well as biking.

At the Everglades Park, Payne's group worked with students from the



*The Everglades are the only place in the world where both crocodiles and alligators are found.*

University of Miami to develop eco-lodges for visitors that were easily removable. According to NPS, the park also uses solar power to light parking lots, solar-powered heaters to provide hot showers, and biodiesel trams for traveling. In 2000, Congress enacted the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, a multibillion dollar project that is viewed as Florida's preeminent adaptation strategy against climate change. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, the plan should take about forty years to complete.

According to NPS, Glacier Bay was the first national park to complete an inventory of its greenhouse gas emissions, earning the "Climate Friendly Park" designation in Alaska, and it is home to an award-winning recycling program—diverting 58 percent of its waste stream.

"We generated all of our own electricity, and developed a plan to convert to a more fuel-efficient generating system," said Payne. "We also began work to investigate tying into a hydro-power system used by the local community 10 miles away from our campus. We worked with our concessioners to encourage them to use the most fuel efficient and cleanest sources for travel and implemented and /or required recycling programs. And of course, we educated the public about what we were seeing."

## Go exploring

Though she retired in 2010, Payne continues to pursue her passion for nature and conservation through travel and volunteering. She has completed a two-week raft trip





through the Grand Canyon, climbed Mount Rainier, and snorkeled with whale sharks in Mexico. In between her travels, Payne has managed to serve as a guest instructor at the NPS training academy, volunteer for two weeks at the Museum of the Park Ranger in Yellowstone, and become a Master Gardener in Sante Fe, her current home, educating the community on responsible, water-wise gardening techniques.

"I also serve as a member of the Executive Council of the Coalition of National Park Service Retirees," said Payne. "We have about 1,000 members and collectively share over 30,000 years of management experience at all levels of the National Park Service. We consider ourselves the 'Voices of Experience' on park issues and can speak out candidly about precedent-setting issues such as the removal of a private oyster farm operating in a designated wilderness area or political efforts to overturn rules for off-road vehicles in designated beach nesting areas."

Payne also continues to be conscious of the affects of global warming and climate change in her personal life. She drives a Prius, composts, re-cycles, and tries to buy products with responsible packaging. Most of all, she advises those who are interested in making a difference to go exploring: "Fall in love with the resource! You might be passionate about birding, or geology, or botany, or history. Enjoy what you love and learn about it. Develop your sense of curiosity and wonder." ■

## ASK THE EXPERT

**Climate change is a hot topic these days, but concern doesn't always translate into action. What are three things a person can do today to help combat this complex problem?**



An article in *The Onion* a few years ago carried the headline, "How Bad For The Environment Can Throwing Away One Plastic Bottle Be?" 30 Million People Wonder." It's the same with climate change. Climate change is huge. It's a massive global weather crisis that we can't see or hear or taste or smell. But we can sense it. And despite the deniers, science—really good, legit science—tells us that we better take it seriously or else. And that is just downright upsetting. I'm just one person! What can I do? (30 million people wonder). Here are three things:

**Eat less meat.** It turns out that one of the major contributors to climate change is the production of meat, especially beef. A 2006 report suggested that meat production contributed between 15 percent and 22 percent of greenhouse gas emissions ([bit.ly/hYhlq](http://bit.ly/hYhlq)). A more recent study by the World Watch Institute puts that figure at 51 percent ([bit.ly/18GU4SZ](http://bit.ly/18GU4SZ)).

I know it's hard for meat lovers to contemplate giving up cheeseburgers and prime rib. And I know that some, though not all, meat substitutes taste a little too much like, well, science. But by reducing meat consumption, eating more fruits, vegetables, nuts, and grains, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow deforestation. You might even see your cholesterol levels go down!

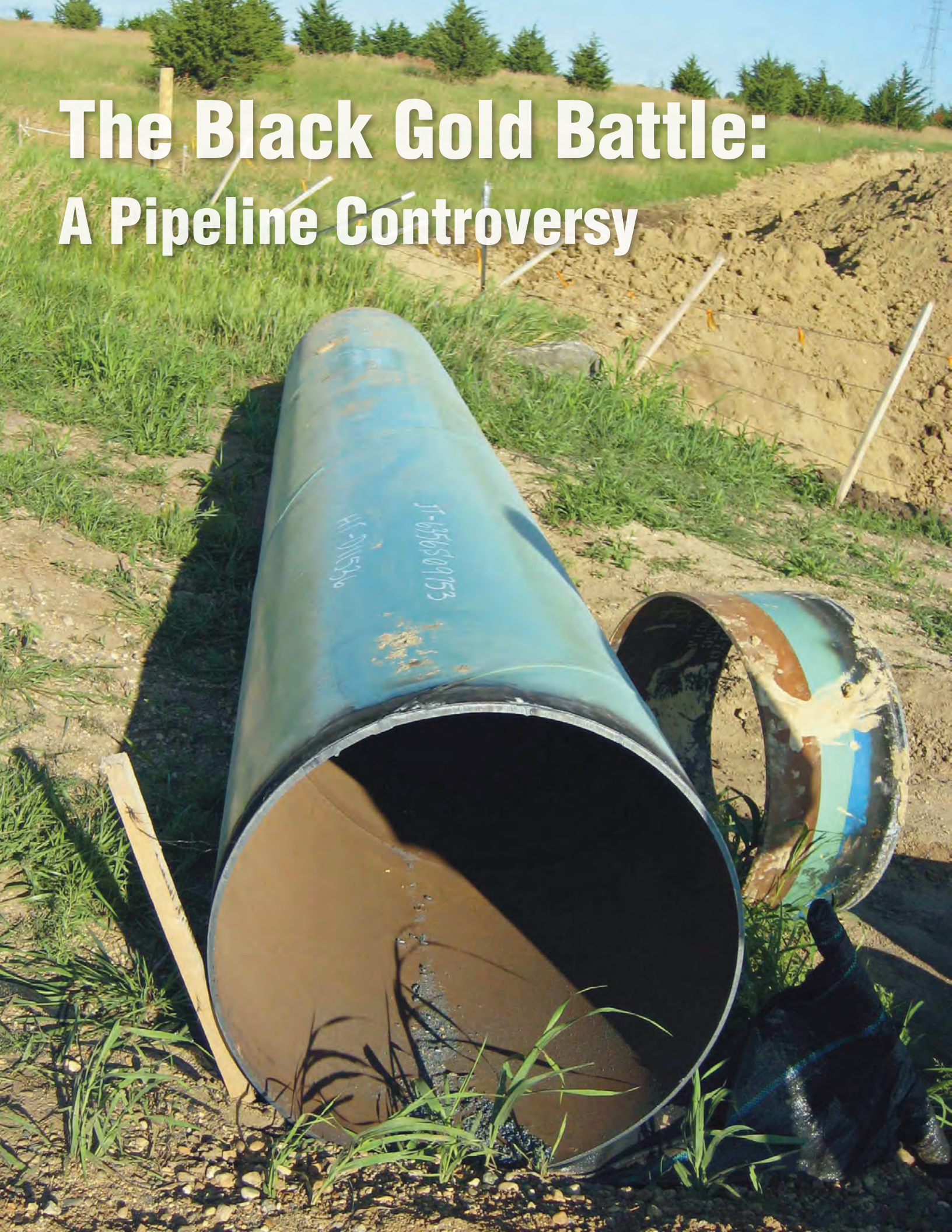
**Park the car.** According to the EPA, one gallon of gasoline produces about 19 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>, 22 pounds for diesel ([1.usa.gov/18gkaKC](http://1.usa.gov/18gkaKC)). If you reduce the number of miles you drive in a single year by 2000, you will prevent nearly 40,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> from going into the atmosphere. Walking and biking are also good ways to get in shape, reduce stress, and enjoy the outdoors.

**Take action.** Educate yourself, vote, donate, volunteer, sign petitions, lobby, march, sing, dance. Repeat.

*Dr. Jeanne Hamming is Associate Professor of English and advisor for the Greenhouse Living Learning Community (LLC) at Centenary College.*



# The Black Gold Battle: A Pipeline Controversy







From gasoline to golf balls, diesel fuel to detergents, America is hooked on oil. According to the United States Energy Information Administration, the United States consumed 18.83 million barrels of refined petroleum products and biofuels per day in 2011. Americans account for about 22 percent of the total world petroleum consumption and use crude oil products at a rate of 3.5 gallons of oil a day. To keep up with demand, oil and gas is transported across the nation 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Manhattan Institute for Policy Research states that approximately 70 percent of crude oil and petroleum products are shipped through over 180,000 miles of pipeline. Tanker and barge traffic account for 23 percent of oil shipments, trucking accounts for 4 percent of shipments, and rail for the remaining 3 percent. However, these numbers come with a cost. Between 2005 and 2009, road oil transportation had the highest rate of fatalities, followed by rail, natural gas transmission, with oil pipelines as the safest means of transportation.

Not all watchdogs agree. Many cite pipelines as having the greatest cause of oil spills. *The New York Times* reports that since 1990, more than 5,600 incidents were reported involving land-based hazardous liquid pipelines. In total, these accidents released more than 110 million gallons of crude and petroleum products. The pipeline safety agency considered at least 100 of those spills each year to be "significant," meaning they caused a fire, serious injury, or fatality.

As recent proposed oil projects and devastating accidents have piqued national attention, Americans struggle to agree on whether oil pipelines are an environmentally friendly, economically

sound, and efficient option for energy transportation.

## Keystone XL

In 2008, North America's leading pipeline corporation TransCanada submitted an application for a presidential permit, requesting authorization for the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of a cross-border extension of the preexisting Keystone pipeline. The 1,700 new miles of pipeline would transport oil produced from oil sands in Alberta, Canada, to Gulf Coast refineries. According to TransCanada, the project would also support the growth of crude oil production in the United States and would create hundreds of thousands of jobs for Americans.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**1179** *miles of pipe in proposed Keystone XL pipeline*

**5.4** *million barrels of crude oil produced in the U.S. each day*

**2** *barrels of oil per month is used by an avg. U.S. citizen*

**180** *thousand miles of liquid petroleum pipelines traverse the United States*



*TransCanada claims to use top quality steel and welding techniques for the pipeline network, but activists argue the pipe possesses improperly welded seams.*

Crude drawn from Canadian oil sands contains a gritty mixture that includes bitumen. *The New York Times* reported that environmentalists argue bitumen is corrosive to pipes and difficult to clean when spilled. But the U.S. State Department completed a mandatory environmental review known as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in August of 2011 citing that construction of the pipeline was still the “preferred alternative” among the options studied, including the option to not move forward with the project. The review also cited 57 special conditions designed to keep the Keystone pipeline safe and wrote that it would have little environmental impact if operated according to regulations.

The National Wildlife Federation and other environmental groups criticized the claims, saying the State Department had not been sufficient in their research. According to

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“Allowing the Keystone pipeline to be built requires a finding that doing so would be in our nation’s interest.”

President Barack Obama

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the Sierra Club, levels of carbon dioxide emissions are three to four times higher than those of conventional oil, due to more energy-intensive extraction and refining processes during sands oil production. “The Keystone XL pipeline [would] result in climate-damaging emissions equal to adding more than 5.6 million new cars to U.S. roads,” noted the Sierra Club in an article.

Environmental groups pleaded that U.S. officials not undertake the new Canadian extraction—especially in that region—because of the potential of contaminating drinking water in the case of spill or erosion. In the meantime, supporters saw the pipeline as a means to broaden new energy supplies from a reliable United States ally and a way to decrease dependence on Latin American producers.

After rejecting the initial proposal in January 2012, President Obama approved the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline in June 2013 following a lengthy route negotiation process with the Nebraska governor.

“Allowing the Keystone pipeline to be built requires finding that doing so would be in our nation’s interest,” Mr. Obama said during a speech on climate change. “And our national interest will be served only if this project does not significantly exacerbate the problem of carbon pollution.”

The President also refuted previous claims of job creation and told *The New York Times* that the “most realistic estimates” show Keystone creating roughly 2,000 jobs during construction and sustaining 50 to 100 jobs thereafter. In another twist, Nebraska landowners and pipeline opponents sued in August 2013 contending that the Nebraska legislature unconstitutionally granted the governor authority to approve the pipeline route. Opponents insist that any route would pose



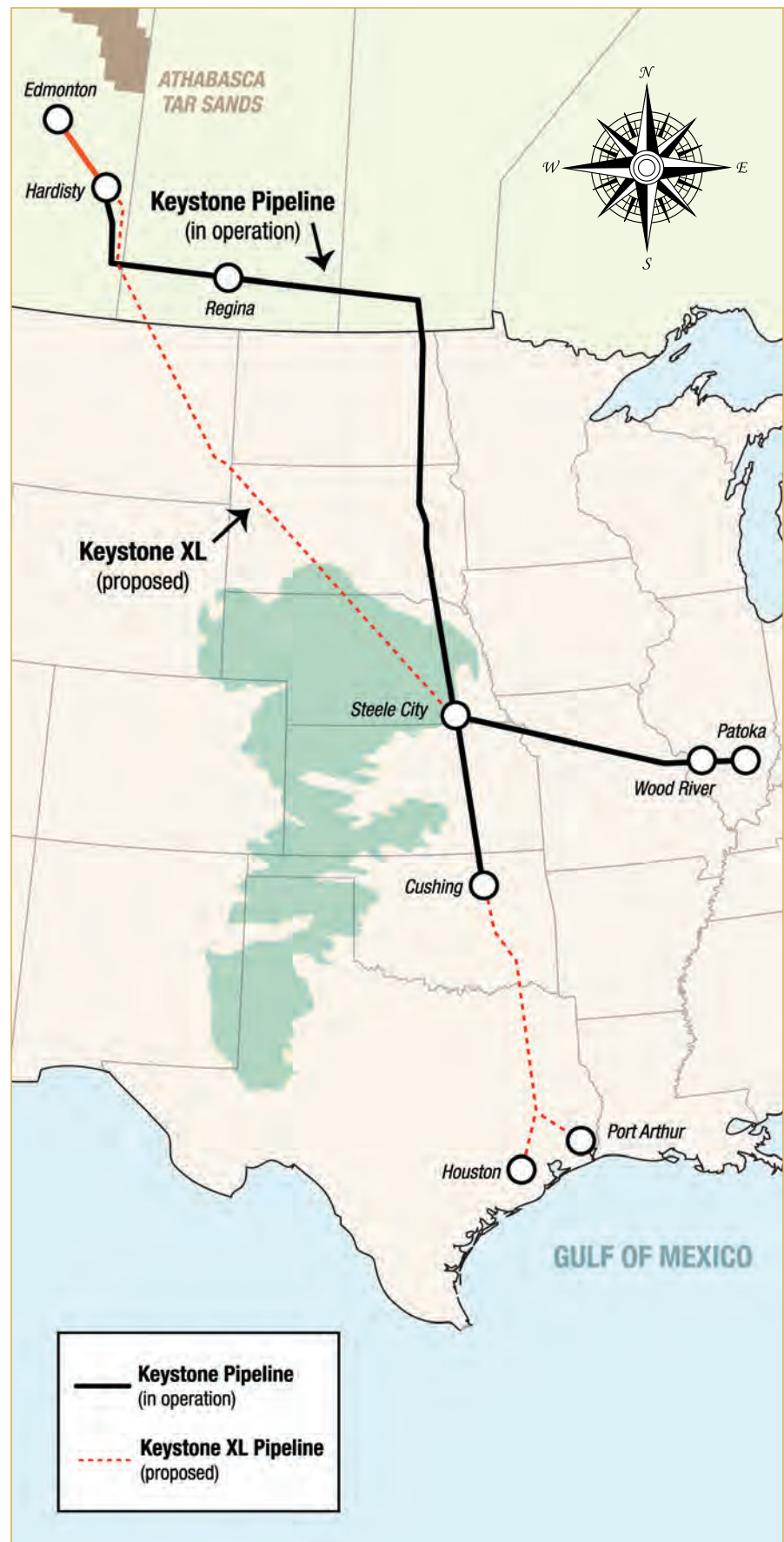
hazards to the public despite claims that Keystone would be the safest pipeline ever built in North America.

## Weighing In

William Hagan '97, of the mud logging and pressure detection company Stratagraph Inc., still thinks pipelines are the best environmental option. "As to other means of transportation, they are just not as fast or efficient as a pipeline. You just can't haul the amounts we are talking about by truck. And you increase the likelihood of contamination when you add in more travel, stops, loading and unloading," said Hagan.

Hagan also contends that pipelines are a safe option for transporting oil. "Believe it or not," said Hagan, "no one fears oil spills like oil companies. They certainly don't want them. That being said, accidents happen." Hagan admitted it would be impossible to say a spill could be ruled out in the future, but also notes that pipeline track records are pretty good, all things considered.

"The Pegasus pipeline that spilled [5,000 barrels of oil in Arkansas] is 850 miles long and carries over 90,000 barrels a day. It was built in the 1940's. The Mayflower spill was estimated at 9,000 barrels...that is a lot of oil [to begin with], and a lot of operational hours, over a long period of time, and a far distance. It's like airplane crashes—no one talks about the 10,000 flights a day that land safely."





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Hagan also sees a project like Keystone XL as a great economic booster. "The pipeline will generate over \$30 million dollars in property taxes alone, plus all the other taxes and fees that will go into the project on a yearly basis," said Hagan. "Besides the jobs needed to construct the pipeline, estimated at 9,000, it would take a lot of labor to service, maintain, and monitor a 1,179-mile-long pipeline. It would have a positive economic impact on every area it travels through."



**Dr. Jim Carver '67**

Environmental attorney Dr. Jim Carver '67 agrees with Hagan that pipelines are the most efficient means of oil transportation and least likely to cause an environmental disaster, but with some cautions.

"In general, the construction of pipelines through Louisiana's marshes and

wetlands appears to have disrupted the continuity of the area," said Carver. "It appears that the many breaches of naturally occurring barriers have diminished the landmass of south Louisiana, allowing less resistance to hurricane forces and allowing saltwater intrusion further inland."

However, Carver does not believe pipelines are wholly to blame. "The pipeline disruption appears to be only a small contributor to the loss of marsh land," said Carver. "Not allowing the Mississippi River—as well as other rivers—to overflow its banks every spring [because of human-made channelizing], causes the lack of replenishing the soil that for centuries was responsible for the buildup of the marshes."

"But in general pipelines are the preferable way to transport oil," agreed Carver. "Most pipelines are underground and can be cathodically protected from corrosion. I do not pretend to know how pipelines can be laid in marshland without damage, but I am confident that if properly regulated, minimal damage would be done."

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Former White House attorney for the Council on Environmental Quality Don Scroggin '66 believes that the findings from the several Environmental Impact Statements completed for Keystone XL are accurate. "Pipelines are demonstrably safer and less environmentally harmful than rail travel of oil. The fact is not really controversial; you can look at the data to see it," said Scroggin.

Scroggin contends that those opposed to pipelines are simply opposed to using fossil fuels. "The opposition to it is not so much because of environmental impact, because from a scientific point of view, it has been examined so it's not the issue," said Scroggin. "The issue is whether or not the United States should continue to depend on fossil fuels or if they should seek to develop more energy from solar, wind, and other sources." But even those sources, admits Scroggin, require energy to manufacture.

In addition to transporting oil most safely, Scroggin also agrees that building more pipelines would help the economy. "The oil is going to flow, and it will either flow to us [or abroad]," said Scroggin. "The difference is, if it flows to the United States through a pipeline, then economic impact is large both in terms of employment but also in terms of income and benefit to the economy. If it goes to China, it's a different story."

## Go with the flow

In Scroggin's words, "Everyone mouths issues that are not the reason that they are arguing for or against the project. The issue is whether we should simply stop having coal plants, or discourage the use of oil."

As Scroggin notes, questioning the safety and impact of oil pipelines may only be the tip of the iceberg on a larger issue. The oil pipeline controversy is part of a more complex discussion of the current usage of energy in the United States and whether this nation wants to continue to consume a generous portion of the world's petroleum and crude oil supply. Despite fewer spills and more jobs, a pipeline can only carry as much oil as is available. ■

## ASK THE EXPERT

**How would the expansion of transmission routes for oil and natural gas impact the supply and demand and the industry as a whole?**



As a general rule, markets become more efficient as costs (in this case transportation) decrease and market options increase. The completion of a pipeline provides a least cost solution to the transportation problem as well as additional market options in trading. The alternatives to pipeline transmission are rail and truck, both of which are much more expensive. Pipelines have a further advantage of allowing trading of product as a method of access (i.e. if you buy a rail car full of crude oil, it will be delivered to the nearest siding. If you buy the same quantity through a pipeline, you can draw out that amount of oil, at the nearest portal, over a range of time). The disadvantage of pipelines is that they do not move in two directions easily.

Because of the global nature of particularly the oil market, the completion of additional pipelines within the U.S. will have very little impact upon domestic gasoline prices.

*Dr. Harold Christensen is Professor of Economics at Centenary College.*

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Pro: TransCanada thinks the Keystone XL Pipeline will be the safest in the U.S. Do you agree? [keystone-xl.com](http://keystone-xl.com)

Con: Friends of Earth call Keystone XL Pipeline an environmental crime in progress. Take action. [foe.org](http://foe.org)



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# Straying from the Flock

On Christ the solid rock I stand  
All other ground is sinking sand  
All other ground is sinking sand

*A decline in mainline religion*





Religious scholars call them the “nones.” They are the group of people who do not assign themselves to a faith tradition when answering a survey question about their religion. These individuals (also known as the unaffiliated) claim to have no religion or religious preference and are growing in numbers in America. In fact, Pew Research Center’s Forum on Religion & Public Life has found that the number of Americans who claim to have no religious affiliation is the highest it has ever been since data on the subject started being collected in the 1930’s.

Pew also cites that one-fifth of the U.S. and one-third of adults under 30 are religiously unaffiliated today. That is a substantial increase in just the last five years as “nones” have gone from slightly over 15% to nearly 20% of all U.S. adults. These findings demonstrate that the religiously unaffiliated are relatively young compared to the general public.

However, rejection of specific church affiliation does not necessarily mean abandonment of spirituality. The majority of America’s 46 million unaffiliated adults are religious or spiritual in some way as two-thirds say they believe in God, more than half say they often feel a deep connection with nature and the earth, while more than a third classify themselves as “spiritual” but not “religious.” In addition, one-in-five religiously unaffiliated say they pray every day, and most think that churches and other religious institutions benefit society by strengthening community bonds and aiding the poor.



*Christmas Candlelight Service is held yearly in Brown Chapel at Centenary College.*

## Empty pews

As more and more people, often of the millennial generation, step away from the church, theories are surfacing as to the reasons for the existence and growth of this trend. Bishop Cynthia Harvey of the United Methodist Church of Louisiana offered her explanation.

“Most of the ‘nones’ do not desire to connect with religion in the way their parents and those of older generations have...they want to be a part of something much bigger than they are.”

Bishop Harvey believes younger generations are hoping for a different experience than what is being offered in many churches across the United States. “We used to attract people through worship, Sunday school, and study, but today people, particularly younger people, come to ‘the church’ through the back door,” said Harvey. “They make a connection by involvement in mission and responding to the needs of the community, meeting their need to be about something greater.”

The Pew Research finds that most unaffiliated adults agree that religious organizations strengthen community bonds and play an important role in community service. But most also say that religious organizations are too focused on rules and power. Reverend Dawson Taylor '01, Executive Minister of the Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ in Dallas, agrees with Pew results on unaffiliated attitudes. Taylor reasons a lack of compassion and grace towards difficult topics has served as a major turn-off for church.



*Rev. Dawson Taylor '01*

"It is time that churches, pastors, and religious leaders get on-board [with] inclusion and grace," said Taylor. "If a church wants to

be relevant and vital today, acknowledge that there are difficult issues and that faith can be a difficult journey. Too many [churches] offer easy answers to difficult questions."

These politically fueled issues are another reason for the increased apathy of organized religion, according to University of California, Berkeley,

"I prefer to think of church as a verb versus a noun," said Harvey. "Church is not a place we go to, but something we are, that we are becoming."

sociologists Michael Hout and Claude S. Fischer. In 2002, Hout and Fischer first suggested, "Part of the increase in 'nones' can be viewed as a symbolic statement against the Religious Right." They contend that young adults, in particular, have turned away from organized religion because they receive it as deeply entangled with politics and do not want to have any association with it.

Reverend Mary Katherine Morn '83, Parish Minister at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, VA, believes that the media are partially to blame for this decline in church participation. "I think that the media have done us such a disservice to paint religion in this country with one brush that everybody thinks the same... people buy that and some believe that to be in a religious

## BY THE NUMBERS

**68** percent of unaffiliated adults say they believe in God

**48** percent of American adults said they were Protestant in 2012

**74** percent of unaffiliated adults were raised with some affiliation

**78** percent of unaffiliated say religion groups strengthen community

**58** percent of the U.S. general public pray daily







community you have to have narrow views,” said Morn.

But Morn also admits that the institution of church is not doing its part to engage Americans. “I would say that religious institutions aren’t as good as we ought to be at helping people make connections between the ultimate questions and how they live their everyday lives, and we need to be better,” said Morn.

## Emerging adults

Author Christian Smith explored what happens to religious faith and practices in the midst of transitioning from one phase of life to another in his book, *Souls in Transition: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults*. His study focused on emerging adults, aged 18 to 30, and moralistic therapeutic deism—the belief that we should be good, feel good, and turn to God in emergencies. Smith’s findings showed that emerging adults are the least religious adults in the United States.

Smith believes that most emerging adults fall into one of six established categories: Committed Traditionalists, Selective Adherents, Spiritually Open, Religious Indifferent, Religiously Disconnected, and Irreligious Adults. Students in Dr. David Otto’s Sociology of Religion course recently replicated Smith’s study, conducting three-hour interviews to determine where their classmates fit in the categories and how they fell into national averages.

The national averages listed in Smith’s



study show that of emerging adults 15 percent are Committed Traditionalists, 30 percent are Selected Adherents, 15 percent are Spiritually Open, 25 percent are Religiously Indifferent, 5 percent are Religiously Disconnected, and 10 percent are Irreligious.

“For the most part, Centenary students aligned with research,” said Otto.

He explained that the breakdown showed that about 30 percent of students made up the group considered Selective Adherents who have a “cafeteria-style approach” as they perform certain aspects of their religious traditions but neglect and ignore others. Around 25 percent are Religiously Indifferent. This group does not care one way or another about religion, as it is just not part of their lives. A little over 15 percent of Centenary students are categorized as Committed Traditionalists—those who embrace a strong religious faith, who can articulate their beliefs, and who practice their religion often. Fifteen percent have Spiritually Open qualities and tend to abandon mainline churches and often create a religion that is unique to them. Less than 10 percent of Centenary students fall in the Irreligious Adults category and have a hyper-negative, confrontational view about religion, and about 5 percent are Religiously Disconnected and do not associate with religious people or feel religious.

When asked whether he found these data surprising coming from a church-affiliated institution, Otto admitted he thought Centenary students would be different from national trends. But after further research, Otto realized they were no different from other emerging adults across the nation.



“For this generation social justice issues are very important, so in many ways this generation sees church as hypocritical because of its strong focus on issues such as women’s rights, gay marriage, and abortion,” said Otto. “But that’s not what they are really interested in hearing about [at church]. Many are interested in a personal relationship with Jesus but don’t feel the need to have that regulated by an institution.”

Otto attributes the need for millennials to feel unrestricted to their being a part of hyperindividualized generation. “This is a cohort group that has been hyper-institutionalized all their lives,” said Otto. “They go from school, to soccer, then to church. [Millennials] have been institutionalized out of the wazoo... their tendency is to be very selective about whatever they want to belong to because

they suffer from institutional fatigue.”

This “institutionalized” feeling that most millennials are trying to escape, according to Otto, can be traced back to childhood and adolescence—something Smith believes is at the heart of religion later in life. He found that religious commitments, practices, and investments made during childhood flow into outcomes later in life.

### Is there a solution

As many congregations across the nation have taken notice of declining attendance, those of faith are asking if there is a solution to stopping the trend.

“I believe churches and pastors are guilty of assuming we know exactly what people want or need without even



*Austin Rinehart '13*

asking,” said Taylor. “I think we often ask the wrong people. We ask those who are already in the pews and engaged in the life and ministry of the congregation. What would it look like for a pastor to go to a mall and stop people to ask them what they need most from a church? What if a pastor sat with parishioners at a bar and discussed faith?”

Morn offers that the Unitarian Universalist church is a good place for people who are searching and spiritually hungry. While she does not believe someone must belong to a religious community to maintain a faith, Morn hopes to inform more people that there are churches where everybody is welcome.

Harvey challenges that those of faith should redefine “Church.” “I prefer to think of church as a verb versus a noun,” said Harvey. “Church is not a place we go to, but something we are, that we are becoming. Jesus said go out into the world, not go into the church. If we are ‘being’ the church in the communities where we serve, we will respond



*Bishop Harvey praying over congregation at First United Methodist Church - Shreveport.*





to the growing and changing needs of the people...to remain relevant we might also have to agree to disagree...and be willing to tell the gospel story — unashamedly.”

For some emerging adults, the abandonment of church because it does not fulfill individual needs is not a satisfying answer to the problem. “Maybe instead of asking questions about what the church can do for us, we begin to ask the question of ‘What can I bring to the church. What I can do to help strengthen the church. What gifts and graces do I have that would make Church better for those like me,’” said seminary student Austin Rinehart ’13.

“I believe our consumerist society has led to a change in the fundamental question people are asking the church,” continued Rinehart. “Instead of waiting to be transformed by the church we should be the ones doing the transformation.”

Instead of avoiding the hard questions, Rinehart explains that he and his peers desire a church “committed to social justice, radical hospitality to strangers, and an unrelenting belief that God is ever-committed and ever-loving towards all His people regardless of race, ethnicity, sexuality, socio-economic status, belief, or theology.” Simply put, Rinehart just wants to belong to a church of grace and passion. “I want to be a member among thousands, never wavering from the mission [of Christ] and always looking forward, never back,” said Rinehart. “I think everyone out there could be committed to something like that.” ■

## ASK THE EXPERT

**With the downward generational shift in traditional church attendance, what does the future hold for mainline denominations in America?**



In terms of the so-called “mainline denominations,” probably two things: 1) the media will run many pieces bemoaning a shift from an imagined or idealized status quo, and 2) professionals in those denominations will try out new tactics—social programming, ad campaigns, liturgical innovations—for reaching and retaining young people. For my work, the first response is the most interesting.

In my class this summer for the BA program of the Chicago Police Department, one of the themes was nostalgia, the power of creating and clinging to a vision of a past when things were better, more pure. This notion of a “downward generational shift” is one of the things I hear repeatedly cited as a motivation by some of the extremist groups I study. So one result of buzz about this supposed decline in church attendance is that folks are quick to correlate it with a decline in morals, to map it onto visions of America’s decline, and to respond with religious thought and practice explicitly framed as a return to what used to be.

The dynamic that interests me as a scholar is how, for small communities insisting on their own ideological purity, the idea that society used to be perfect and has been deteriorated (often by some scapegoat group: Jews, homosexuals, the government, etc.) can lead to acts of violence.

*Dr. Spencer Dew is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Centenary College.*

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Throughout its history, Centenary has served as a training ground for the leaders of tomorrow. At Centenary, students come together for a common purpose, transforming their own lives, so that eventually, they can transform the world.

Each person brings into the Centenary community his or her own sense of passion, building upon his or her own determination and drive to make this world a better place. At its heart, Centenary is a place of passion—a place where we have the opportunity to encounter and engage other passionate people. It is in those relationships that we find our passions reignited, nurtured, and nourished.

There are a number of ways to make a difference in this world, some that are laid out in this issue of *Encircle*: working to save our national parks from a rapidly changing environment, bringing education to those in developing countries who most need it, and helping others find their own path of faith and belief. Our curriculum and this publication are built around three global challenges, designed to engage our students in action-based responses, preparing them to lead in a rapidly changing world:

- **EXPANDING CIRCLES OF RELATIONSHIPS**, engaging people of difference with civility in ways that lead to peaceful social arrangements.
- **LIVING A MEANINGFUL LIFE**, placing the needs of others above one's own so that each person may live up to his or her full potential.
- **LIVING A SUSTAINABLE LIFE**, preserving and enhancing the planet's natural resources for current and future generations.

Our lives are made up of moments—moments where we are called upon to act and called upon to lead. Moments where we are aware of the monumental task and significance of what lies before us, and others that seem insignificant at the time but, in retrospect, have resounding repercussions. All of these acts—great and small—create ripples, affecting future generations and the world that they will one day inherit.

This is why Centenary Leaders continue to learn, live, and lead in the world beyond graduation, understanding and always living out what I have come to express as the Centenary Principle: Each decision and every action should be understood and evaluated in terms of the impact it will have on others in the world now and 100 years from now.

*Encircle* shares the story of our community and those that have followed their passions, wherever they led, especially, if they led down the road less traveled. Unleash and follow your passions.

Take Care,



B. David Rowe, Ph.D.

*David Rowe is the 30<sup>th</sup> President of Centenary College of Louisiana.*





*The Paul Marvin Brown, Jr., Society*

# PLANNED *Giving*

What legacy will you leave in the world? How will your legacy impact Centenary College? A planned gift to the College can provide financial flexibility and tax benefits, but more importantly, it can have a real and lasting impact on our students. As Centenary develops leaders for a changing world, your planned gift will help prepare Centenary graduates to engage the world's greatest challenges. Give to the world through Centenary, and define your legacy today.

The **Paul Marvin Brown, Jr., Society** honors alumni and friends who include Centenary College in their estate plans. These gifts of future support will play an extraordinary role in ensuring Centenary's continued commitment to students, faculty, and the liberal arts.

*Your gift will make a difference.*



For more information, please contact David Henington  
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DEVELOPING LEADERS FOR A CHANGING WORLD



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# ENCIRCLE



SPRING 2014

**BATTLING DROUGHT:**  
*Securing Our*

*Water*

**Feeding the Hungry**

**Navigating the Economic  
Recovery**

**Reinvigorating French Culture**





*Craig Arnoff of Family Business Consulting Group speaks to members of Centenary's Center for Family-Owned Business.*  
Page 20



*Abbey Rubel '02 and volunteers gather in the Food Pantry at Common Ground.*  
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*Students participating in the Paris May Module pose in front of the Eiffel Tower. Page 5*



*California's continuing drought exposes bed of Folsom Lake. Page 13*

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- Forbes Magazine

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- Princeton Review

Top 25 Colleges with the  
Best Professors  
- CBS MoneyWatch

DEVELOPING LEADERS FOR A CHANGING WORLD



***Encircle* features are divided into three categories based on 21st-century global challenges as identified by Centenary faculty and engaged by our students and graduates.**



### **Expanding Circles**

Our challenge is to expand our circle to promote respectful engagement with a broader world. In the 21st century, not everyone shares the same values or experiences, and conflict exists.

Through exploration and discussion of our differences, we must work to create the common ground necessary to build peaceful, just, and mutually beneficial relationships.



### **Sustainable Life**

Our challenge is to develop sustainable lifestyles and appreciate the natural environment in ways that do not compromise the capacity of future generations to satisfy their needs. We must learn how to lead a sustainable life, work to devise solutions to problems that use our planet's resources wisely, and create sustainable, just, and compassionate systems.



### **Meaningful Life**

Our challenge is to identify and live intentionally our deeply held values, ideals, and beliefs while respecting the values and beliefs of others. By approaching the world with an open mind, we search for meaning and purpose. We must explore our passions, question assumptions, and strive toward our potential so as to help others live their potential as well.



# ENCIRCLE

*Encircle* is published by  
Centenary College of Louisiana  
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SPRING 2014

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## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

### Do more.

In recent conversations with Centenary students, faculty, and staff members, some common themes emerged. Everyone agreed that Centenary offers plenty of personal attention, has great professors, and is academically challenging. Many said that the College has a very warm, family-like environment. It just feels good.

But one simple theme was woven throughout these discussions and struck me more than any other: do more.

The prospective students applying for admission to Centenary tend to be those who do more during high school – service organizations, sports, honor societies, music, arts, church, and the like. There's no doubt that our students do more during their college years. There are countless opportunities to learn, live, and lead on campus, and our students take full advantage.

Likewise, *Encircle* tells stories of Centenary graduates who do more in their careers, their communities, and the world. Centenary develops leaders for a changing world – the kind of leaders who just naturally do more – and our world is better for it.



MATT BAILEY

*Acting Dean of Enrollment and Communication*

### ON THE COVER:

I took this photo of a rock cairn that is usually under about 10-15 feet of water in our local reservoir, Lake Del Valle. Of the 29,000 acre-feet in the lake, 10,000 of that is considered "dead storage" and is inaccessible because it is below pump intakes or release valves. That remaining 19,000 acre-feet of stored water is shared by three different water districts, including us. One of those districts supplies Silicon Valley, and they need quite a bit of water to make all the high tech equipment that we all use!



*Carol Mahoney '93 is the Integrated Planning Manager for Zone 7 Water Agency in the San Francisco Bay Area (Livermore, CA).*



A photograph of two men playing accordions in a dimly lit setting, possibly a bar or club. The man on the left is wearing a dark shirt and a fedora-style hat, and the man on the right is wearing a red shirt. They are both wearing sunglasses. The background is dark with some blurred lights.

# *Ties that Bind*

## **French Culture in Louisiana** *and beyond*

Today's networked globe offers opportunities not only to access cultures foreign to our own but also to enhance our appreciation of non-dominant cultures within our own communities.

Read more. →





More than 250 million people speak French worldwide.

French is Europe's second most widely spoken language and the official language of 29 countries. If population growth continues on its current trajectory, the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie estimates that French speakers will top over 700 million by 2050. When including those who are partial French speakers, Jean Claude-Brunet, Consulate of France in New Orleans, believes that figure balloons exponentially:

"In less than 40 years from now, one billion people in the world will speak French, thanks in particular to the African continent."

Currently, membership in the francophonie, i.e. French-speaking countries, is tied to 15 percent of the world's wealth, and French is the second most widely spoken language in Europe ahead of English. The depth and breadth with which French reaches all corners of the world has led the United States to focus on its international relations with its main hub, France.

The United States and France are poised to further strengthen their centuries-long alliance following a State visit from the President of the French Republic François Hollande in February. Prior to Hollande's visit, the last visit to the United States from a French Head of State was in 1996. Hollande and President Barack Obama penned an op-ed, drawing attention to the nations' shared ideals:

"We address global challenges that no country can tackle alone... We are sovereign and independent nations that make our decisions based on our respective national interests... For more than two centuries, our two peoples have stood together for our mutual freedom. Now we are meeting our responsibilities not just to each other — but to a world that is more secure because our enduring alliance is being made new again."

"In less than 40 years from now, one billion people in the world will speak French, thanks in particular to the African continent."

Jean Claude-Brunet

These reasons, among many others, are why the Consul General urges Louisiana to pursue its investment in the francophonie.

Louisiana has struggled with maintaining its French heritage and identity since its inception as a state in 1812. The erasure of Louisiana's unique French culture was nearly accomplished through a 1921 measure prohibiting the use of any language except English in public schools. According to numerous accounts, students who had been raised in local French traditions and for whom French was a primary language were publicly

shamed for speaking French. Census data reported a steep decline in the use of the French language among young people in Louisiana around World War II due to these trends.

## Reversing the Trend

To address the decline of Louisiana's French culture, the Louisiana legislature established CODOFIL in 1968 with the central focus being to "do any and all things necessary to accomplish the development, utilization, and preservation of the French language as found in Louisiana for the cultural, economic, and touristic benefit of the state." At the same time, the Louisiana legislature also passed an act requiring public schools to provide five years of French language instruction in elementary schools and three years at the secondary level. The authority of this legislation was enhanced by a 1973 constitutional amendment granting Louisiana cultural groups the right to express themselves in languages of their choice, thus reversing the earlier law dictating the exclusive use of English in many public settings.

The decline of French language and culture transmission from generation to generation as well as the decreased use of the language in social settings made growing the number of French speakers in the state an immediate concern for CODOFIL. In 1972, CODOFIL instituted a statewide French language program in schools that has evolved to include 30 immersion schools at the elementary and middle school level in which core subjects except English are taught in French. Every immersion school program has a waiting list today.





*Students participating in the Paris May Module gather for a group photo in front of the Palace of Versailles.*

Former Louisiana Commissioner of Education and current CODOFIL president William Arceneaux H'12 attributes the state's reversal to evolving attitudes nationwide.

"Just as Louisiana joined the push for assimilation in the 1920s by adopting English-only amendments, the move throughout the United States in the 1960s to empower ethnic minorities and celebrate diversity led to a resurgent pride in our French heritage among Louisiana citizens," said Arceneaux.

Although recruiting instructors for the immersion programs from outside of Louisiana brought some criticism, Arceneaux explains that it was a matter of necessity rather than choice. Fifty years of suppressing the French language had left few in Louisiana with the necessary credentials. He remembers the arrival of the first group of international CODOFIL teachers and the greeting of first CODOFIL President James Domengeaux.

"He told them that we looked forward to the day when we would no longer need them," reported Arceneaux. "That day still has not arrived, but the *Escadrille Louisiane* is a step in that direction."

## Educating Educators

*Escadrille Louisiane* is a post-graduate program developing young college graduates to be French teachers in Louisiana. The program takes its name from the *Escadrille Lafayette*, a group of 200 Louisiana aviators commissioned as officers in the French army during World War I. Arceneaux conceived *Escadrille Louisiane* as a way to increase the number of Louisiana teachers qualified to deliver French language instruction in the state's schools.

The *Escadrille* program makes it possible for students from a variety of academic disciplines to spend a year teaching in Rennes, France, while working toward a master of arts in teaching (MAT) from Centenary. In exchange for financial aid, graduates commit to teaching in French in Louisiana immersion or secondary schools for three years. Centenary's vibrant French program and established connections with both CODOFIL and the French government made its MAT program a natural choice as the inaugural American academic partner for *Escadrille Louisiane*.

State budgetary concerns that led to a \$100,000 cut in CODOFIL funding in 2012 threatened the program, but supporters rallied and raised money to keep the program going. Funding has been restored in this year's budget, and the partnership continues, with nine Centenary *Escadrille Louisiane* graduates now teaching in Louisiana and eight candidates scheduled to return from Rennes in May to complete their MAT requirements.



## Concern for Louisiana French

Centenary's involvement in promoting Louisiana's francophone culture precedes and extends beyond *Escadrille Louisiane*, particularly through the activities of its Heritage Press. Having already established the country's only student-run French language newspaper, *Le Tintamarre*, French Professor and Honorary French Consul for North Louisiana Dana Kress submitted a proposal to the Louisiana Board of Regents in 2002 focused on recovering American literature published in Louisiana's heritage languages: French, Spanish, and German. The project ultimately grew into the Heritage Press, which publishes works of American literature authored in languages other than English.

Centenary's Heritage Press complements the efforts of CODOFIL and grassroots organizations working to preserve regional French. Though standard French is often the language of instruction in the state's immersion programs, it sometimes differs from the regional French spoken by Louisiana's francophone populations. The various forms of French spoken in Louisiana, collectively referred to as Louisiana French, reflect the language as spoken over the years by a number of groups including Creoles, Creoles of Color, Cajuns, and Native Americans, particularly the Houmas and Chitimachas. Just as instructing students in standard French is important for strengthening global connections, promoting the use and appreciation of Louisiana French is vital to reinvigorating and preserving the French heritage cultures of Louisiana.

Recently, Kress noticed an increase in the number of contemporary works being submitted for publication. He credits this shift in part to the work of the Press itself.

"Seeing historical texts published in their heritage language demonstrated to speakers of Louisiana French that their language and their culture have value," said Kress. "Authors writing in Louisiana French are submitting manuscripts for publication in a variety of genres. It is very moving to read these expressions of a people's experience in their own language."

## Creating Synergy

Although some perceive programs utilizing standard French as separate from, and in some instances in competition with, those seeking to preserve Louisiana French, Arceneaux believes otherwise.

"Three French Cajun bands that I know of have been started by students from our immersion school programs," explained Arceneaux. "Rather than divorcing them from their Louisiana French culture, their exposure to standard French has fostered an appreciation for that heritage and provided them with the tools to sustain it. It is not a circumstance I foresaw, but I'm encouraged by it."

A blog post from New Orleans native Rémi Pastorek, a student in the second *Escadrille Louisiane* class, shares another example of the intercultural synergy. During his year studying in Rennes, he attended an accordion festival where Southwest Louisiana musicians performed.

"After a few minutes, he was there, the famous accordionist Steve Riley with his band Racine. I was dreaming. Here

## BY THE NUMBERS

**116** million people are learning French as a second or third language

**67** percent of people speaking or learning French are in Africa

**4** French's rank among all spoken languages in the United States

**29** countries claim French as the official language





Dr. Dana Kress mentors student Elena Hibbs '16 as she prepares a new Heritage Press book cover.

I was, miles away from Louisiana, and I felt like I was at a dance hall in Breaux Bridge. They played, we danced, and we all let the good times roll.

"Yeah, I love France, but we are always given some sort of reminder that Louisiana is our heart, our life."

### ***Centenary in Paris***

Students entering Centenary in fall 2014 will be given their own opportunity to embrace francophonie when they begin their college experience with immersive study in Paris, France. Called *Centenary in Paris*, this initiative is a meaningful

way to introduce students to Centenary and its rich history in Louisiana and long-standing ties to France.

"In my experience, Centenary must be the first in the nation to do this," said Arceneaux. "This unprecedented decision to send the entire freshman class to Paris will place the College in the international spotlight and result in bringing much-needed attention to Louisiana and its efforts to promote its French language heritage. This initiative can only be described in one way: *formidable*."

New Centenary students will begin and end their first course on campus with 8-10 days in between spent in France's

capital city. Students will be able to engage others' cultures in a hostel-styled facility that specializes in hosting international youth while taking courses that cover a variety of topics from Paris Noir – Black Americans in the City of Light to The French Connection: Business in Paris.

Speaking in a recent address to Centenary students, Consul General Brunet encouraged those who may visit France:

"I have really only one main message I would like to pass on to the students who visit our country: open your eyes, your ears, and discover Paris."

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## Parlez-vous Français?

In June 2014, President Obama will travel to Normandy in remembrance of D-Day, marking the 70th anniversary alongside French President François Hollande. This will be the second visit for the national leaders in the span of a few months.

“Victor Hugo [author of *Les Misérables*] did not visit your country, but he dreamed of a ‘United States of Europe,’ which would be built on precisely the core values that are found in the American experience and in the values of the democracy in France and Europe,” said Brunet. “A hundred and fifty years later, this dream is definitely coming nearer than ever, and France and the United States are key partners to help foster this transatlantic relationship.”

Whether through the Heritage Press, *Escadrille Louisiane*, or *Centenary in Paris*, Centenary leaders are working toward preparing for this global community – a multilingual community in which the French language is prominent. Monsieur Brunet believes that this is a boon to not only Louisiana but also France, telling students,

*“Vous êtes en fait légitimement partie de l’histoire culturelle profonde entre la France et la Louisiane...Français n’est certainement pas une langue étrangère en Louisiane.”*

“You are indeed a legitimate part of the deep-rooted cultural history between Louisiana and France...French is definitely not a foreign language in Louisiana.” ■

## ASK THE EXPERT

### What’s the value of an intercultural experience?

In his memoir as a young writer in Paris in the 1920s, Ernest Hemingway writes lovingly of that time as a “moveable feast.” He explains that throughout his life, no matter how widely he traveled or how much time had passed, the memory of that early intercultural adventure was always with him, a touchstone reminding him of what life *could be*.

This memory for Hemingway defined for him forever what constitutes a meaningful life. But what, exactly, did Paris *teach* him?

Like every student who travels and studies in another culture, the young Hemingway learned to see (and hear and taste and feel) the world from a different perspective. The inevitable comparison and contrast of *where he was from* (in Hemingway’s case: a stable, conformist, middle-class Chicago suburb) to *where he was then* (Jazz Age Paris where history and tradition collided with the avant-garde) awakened both his senses and his creative spirit.

By breaking out of the static familiarity of “home” and expanding his circle of experience with a wider, more complex world, Hemingway came to know himself – and the world – in deeper and richer ways than ever before. The Paris experience for Hemingway meant learning to be awake, learning to be alive, his whole body being alert to the pleasures and possibilities of the world around him.

*Jefferson Hendricks ’75 is a Professor of English and Film Studies. For the past twelve years he has co-taught with Bruce Allen ’75 of the Art and Visual Culture Department a Paris Module on Americans in Paris: The Quest for the Good Life. This coming August he will teach co-teach with Dr. David Havird of the English Department a course in the Centenary in Paris immersion program entitled Writing Paris/Writing Home.*



## ENGAGE Expanding Circles

Find out what the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie members share beyond their common language.

<http://www.francophonie.org/>

Still need a reason to learn French? Here are seven:

<http://read.bi/1atxKOB>

Discover the latest French and francophone cultural events and cooperation projects happening in Louisiana.


<http://bit.ly/1kDCEJj>



# Battling Drought

*Securing Our  
Water*





California has been suffering from a drought since 2012, and with 2013 on record as the state's driest year yet, many fear things will get much worse before there is any relief in sight. On January 17, 2014, California Governor Jerry Brown declared a drought emergency. With the declaration came the plea for Californians to cut their water use by 20 percent.

California's woes are echoed in headlines around the globe with drought-induced water scarcity affecting both the general population and farmers. Like California, many areas in China are in their third year of drought. In August 2012, six provinces in China encountered a prolonged heat wave that saw 2.2 million acres of crops fail and left 13 million people with little to no access to drinking water.

Brazil is now experiencing the same issues—dying crops and lack of water—in the face of a severe drought. As the world's largest coffee producer, Brazil's plight has sent coffee prices soaring, and current climate conditions could see the country lose 10 percent of its coffee crop by 2020. Likewise, Brazil could lose 20 to 22 percent of its soybean crop, according to agro-climatologist Hilton Silveira Pinto in a recent NPR interview.

California, Brazil, and China's problems bring to light the stark truth: droughts have far-reaching implications not only for those who work off the land but also for those who

depend upon it as a food and water source. For California, the looming scarcity of water has led Governor Brown to plead with Californians to cut their water use by 20 percent. In late January 2014, California officials announced that the State Water Project, a system of reservoirs and water delivery systems throughout Northern and Southern California, would halt. Twenty-five million residents and 750,000 farmland acres will now have to turn to other reservoirs, putting even more pressure on those systems. In its 54-year history, the State Water Project has never before completely stopped production.

The State Water Project is the system of aqueducts that supplies water to the San Francisco Bay area, where Carol Mahoney '93 serves as the Integrated Planning Manager for Zone 7 Water Agency. Zone 7 Water is the drinking water wholesaler for a population of about 220,000 residents, various tech industries, and grocery stores as well as a water supplier for a thriving agricultural community of vineyards and olive groves.



“Water is critical to the economic vitality of our region,” said Mahoney. “With an annual rainfall of only about 14.5 inches per year—very different than Shreveport’s average of 52 inches—we are dependent on water imported from the northern Sierra Nevada mountain range to augment our local groundwater basin that supplies only about 20 percent of our annual needs. Eighty percent of our drinking water and agricultural supplies travel from Northern California all the way through the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta and into the San Francisco Bay Area.”

## A Creeping Phenomenon

In 2012, according to the National Climatic Data Center, the heat wave and drought in the United States cost \$30 billion while the death toll attributed to it, including deaths from heat stress, reached 7,500. Adjusted for inflation, the drought of 1998 is the second highest-costing natural disaster behind Hurricane Katrina in the past thirty years. Yet images of hurricane and tornado victims assail the public while droughts get much less coverage outside of the areas they directly affect. Why the disparity? Regularly referred to as a “creeping phenomenon” by both NASA and the National Drought Mitigation Center, droughts are difficult to define and predict.

The National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) defines droughts “as a protracted period of deficient precipitation resulting in extensive damages to crops, resulting in loss of yield.” Yet the NDMC is quick to point out that droughts cannot be seen

only as a physical phenomenon and that an operational definition that defines onset, severity, and the end of droughts is also needed. Operational definitions change according to which drought they define. What might be considered a drought in one area could be average rainfall for another, a conundrum that particularly strikes the interest of Associate Professor of Geology and Department Chair Dr. David Bieler.

“Drought itself isn’t a climatic problem completely,” said Dr. Bieler. “Yes, there is the water availability issue that is determined by climate, rainfall, snowmelt, and how much of that is evaporated. But, in many ways, drought is actually an agricultural issue, a human issue. Drought is a use problem and, in many cases, when looking at the historical record, we haven’t tried to look at separating those variables.”

## Another Dust Bowl?

In 1985, researchers Wilhite and Glantz described four NDMC-accepted methods for measuring droughts. Meteorological, hydrological, and agricultural droughts cover the physical aspect of droughts while socioeconomic droughts determine the effect of drought on supply and demand. The well-documented Dust Bowl is a prime example of how all meteorological droughts stem from lack of precipitation but can be intensified by agricultural drought.

David Moss ’10, a graduate student at Syracuse University working on a Ph.D. in earth sciences, believes we have to be careful when comparing the Dust Bowl to current or future droughts.

“The Dust Bowl era was in part caused by poor farming practices,” said Moss. “This period was a significant time of drought that was exacerbated by the removal



*Department of Environmental Quality employee sampling a public supply well for the Village of Evergreen.*





"Drought itself isn't  
a climatic problem  
completely.....

In many ways,  
drought is actually  
an agricultural issue,  
a human issue."

Dr. David Bieler

of natural prairie grasses and their replacement with wheat, which, when the drought came, died quickly and allowed for the removal of soil from the plains. Farming practices have since improved, and it seems unlikely that a similar 'dust bowl' situation will occur."

The variability that goes into defining droughts is just as prevalent when it comes to predicting droughts. According to the NDMC, empirical studies have revealed that meteorological droughts never stem from a single cause. However, entities in the public and private sector are working continually to improve monitoring and forecasting products.

"With droughts, a 'warning' system is very difficult as the time scale can extend to months rather than the matter of days for tornadoes or hurricanes," said Moss. "But I imagine we will probably start to see more drought forecasts coming out in the spring and hopefully start to see people change water usage in response to this."

The United States Department of Agriculture, the National Weather Service, and the NDMC have produced the Drought Monitor since 1999, which maintains a weekly map of the

U.S. that monitors dryness. Mostly, meteorologists and forecasters rely on historical drought information. Dr. Bieler contends that though this method is sound, the historical record, unfortunately, does not reach far enough back to be a completely reliable indicator.

"Our data sets are not big enough to really get a potential scope of the problem," he said. "We haven't been collecting data that long. Because it's a whole year's worth of data that most are interested in and how that compares to a long-term average, many predictions are based off perhaps a 30-year average. But, who is to say that the 30 years we are basing that prediction on was what one might consider normal?"

## A Water Shortage

Bieler, with the help of Trevor Stine '13, has worked to improve the historical record and future predictions by looking at the Arkansas River basin. This river basin supplies water to areas of Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, much like the State Water Project supplies water to multiple large-scale cities in California. Their research was inspired by someone questioning Bieler on whether the U.S. was currently entering a new Dust Bowl era.

"My thought was 'Well, I wonder what the climatic signature of the Dust Bowl was?' How would we know? And that prompted this study where we took the upper Arkansas River valley from its headwaters in Colorado to Tulsa and made a series of maps from 1920 to 1950. We took the total precipitation

from each year and did a 30-year average, establishing a baseline. Then, we mapped out how the rainfall differed from that average."

Their research found that from 1934 to 1938 – the height of the Dust Bowl – there was a huge rainfall deficit, as expected. But, interestingly, there was not a deficit in the headwaters.

"This is just the first step. Now, we need to go forward in mapping the temperatures," said Bieler. "Either from the agricultural perspective the river was being used before it got farther east or it was evaporating. These are things we just haven't evaluated yet."

The exploration of historical drought records and emphasis on prediction models are meant to aid in diminishing the possibility of water shortages in the face of drought. A water shortage has implications not only on drinking

## BY THE NUMBERS

**100**

*percent of CA counties face  
severe drought conditions*

**1.7**

*billion spent on energy costs  
during 2007-09 CA drought*

**300**

*gallons per month saved  
by fixing a leaky faucet*



*Jesse Means '92*

water but also food production. Areas such as California with growing populations dependent on reservoirs and rainfall are particularly vulnerable to droughts.

### **Drought Mitigation**

Jesse Means '92, a geologist for the Drinking Water Protection Program staff at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, spends his days working to protect the quality of public water sources, a task that could become more challenging in the face of drought.

"Depending on how long or severe a drought is, contaminants may become more concentrated due to lack of rain water to

dilute them. As far as water availability goes, state or local governments may put water restrictions on communities and, in plain terms, if the water just isn't there, it isn't going to be available."

Means states that drought mitigation is a combined state and federal agency effort. The state of Louisiana has a Ground Water Emergency Response Contingency Plan in place should an unanticipated man-made or natural act render the state's ground water source unavailable. Researchers and urban developers continue to try to balance the need for both reactive and proactive measures. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) indicates that mitigation would save \$4 for every \$1 expended in crisis mode.

At Zone 7 Water in the San Francisco Bay area, Carol Mahoney is knee deep in planning efforts that seek to integrate water supply, flood protection, groundwater management, and watershed protection as well as establish

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annual operation plans for the water supply — a task that has become increasingly difficult given current California climate conditions.

“Our mantra has been, ‘Prepare for the worst and hope for the best!’” said Mahoney. “Our team found out in mid-January that the allocation of water from the State Water Project to be delivered to us would drop from five percent to zero. Translation: Maximize the use of our local supplies, like our groundwater basin and a local reservoir. This is easier said than done and where my training in geology from Centenary comes in handy.”

Agreeing with Means’s assessment, Mahoney confirms that the continued lack of precipitation is also cause for concern when it comes to the quality of the water that they do possess:

“Deliveries through the Sacramento/ San Joaquin Delta are subject to environmental laws and concerns over salt water intrusion. Should there not be enough fresh water flowing into the system from the Sierras this summer, then the water at the intake pumps that feed the aqueduct system will become more and more saline. At some point, the water could become too saline to be acceptable for treatment and distribution for drinking water. This also goes for supplying agriculture directly. At some point, the water will just be too salty for human consumption or plant application.”

The Livermore Valley, where Mahoney lives, only recorded 4.5 inches of rainfall for 2013 — 10 inches below the



*The DEQ routinely collects water samples to monitor quality.*

average. In response, she has begun to conserve water at home, keeping a bucket in the shower to catch excess water that is then used to flush toilets and turning off outdoor irrigation. She also advocates for recycled wastewater for irrigation:

“Recycled water is the only uninterrupted supply in this semi-arid environment, and parks and golf courses irrigated with it will enjoy a green summer, while the hills and many lawns will turn Golden State brown.”

## Meeting Demands

Facing a rapidly expanding population, water scarcity even during non-drought years, and climate change that the National Resources Defense Council claims will only increase the possibility of droughts in the future, researchers are also looking to the past for answers.

“There is a very complicated history of drying and wetting cycles that we interpret back as far as 800 to 1100 years ago using tree ring data,” said Bieler.

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"We can show how that corresponds with the archeological record as to whether people lived in higher elevations where it was cooler and therefore wetter or whether there was enough water that they could move down to lower levels in the valleys. People used to make adjustments for the climate change."

Bieler argues that big fluctuations may not be that uncommon, but that the drought in California is particularly troubling due to the severity and duration. The reservoirs are also at record lows.

"Water has always been in short supply in California. How you meet the demands of a growing population and how you prioritize water use, i.e., drinking water, water for livestock, domestic use for watering lawns, fracking, is the issue at hand. And farmers need water for irrigation – failing to irrigate California crops is a national problem."

Depending on precipitation levels in the summer and coming year, Mahoney's team will turn to underground aquifers to meet indoor water needs and support local vegetation:

"The Integrated Planning team has been burning the midnight oil to determine how we can maximize the use of our supplies and be flexible enough to address new information as it comes in. We collaborate closely with our engineering and operations teams to understand where the system has weaknesses and work to fill gaps."

She points out that understanding the whole system is key to planning for an emergency such as this drought or even a flood.

Sandra L. Postel, Director of the Global Water Policy Project and a National Geographic Fellow, accurately explains the challenges that lie ahead:

"For the past century and a half, humanity has enjoyed a relatively benevolent climate. During this time, we built big dams to tame the earth's rivers, diverted flows from one river basin to another, drained wetlands for farming, and built oasis cities in the desert. We have so successfully masked aridity that we have become imbued with a false sense of security about our water future. In order for our modern culture to enjoy a millennium of prosperity in the West... we may need to embrace aridity and water's tightening limits, and apply ingenuity and creativity to successfully live within those limits rather than continue to mask and deny them." ■

## ASK THE EXPERT

### How do we become conservation-minded?



In a way, we're already conservation-minded. We track relatively scarce resources (such as our bank balances) and carefully choose our usage. The problem is that when we do not believe a resource is scarce, we release ourselves from the mental barriers that previously existed (as many lottery winners know, sadly, once they've lost their winnings).

But there is hope. Our minds can help us preserve resources again with just a bit of foresight and planning. Many possibilities exist to accomplish this. For example, video games such as *World Without Oil* ([worldwithoutoil.org](http://worldwithoutoil.org)) may help us build skills now in a virtual world and change our real-world behavior down the road. At home, one can make a real-world game out of saving water - incentivizing yourself and your family now to reinforce skills that we might need as second-nature later.

By bringing scarcity and conservation into our daily lives as concepts we can work with rather than fear, we equip ourselves with the skills and knowledge to cope with shortages that may happen.

*Dr. Jonathan Westfall is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology.*

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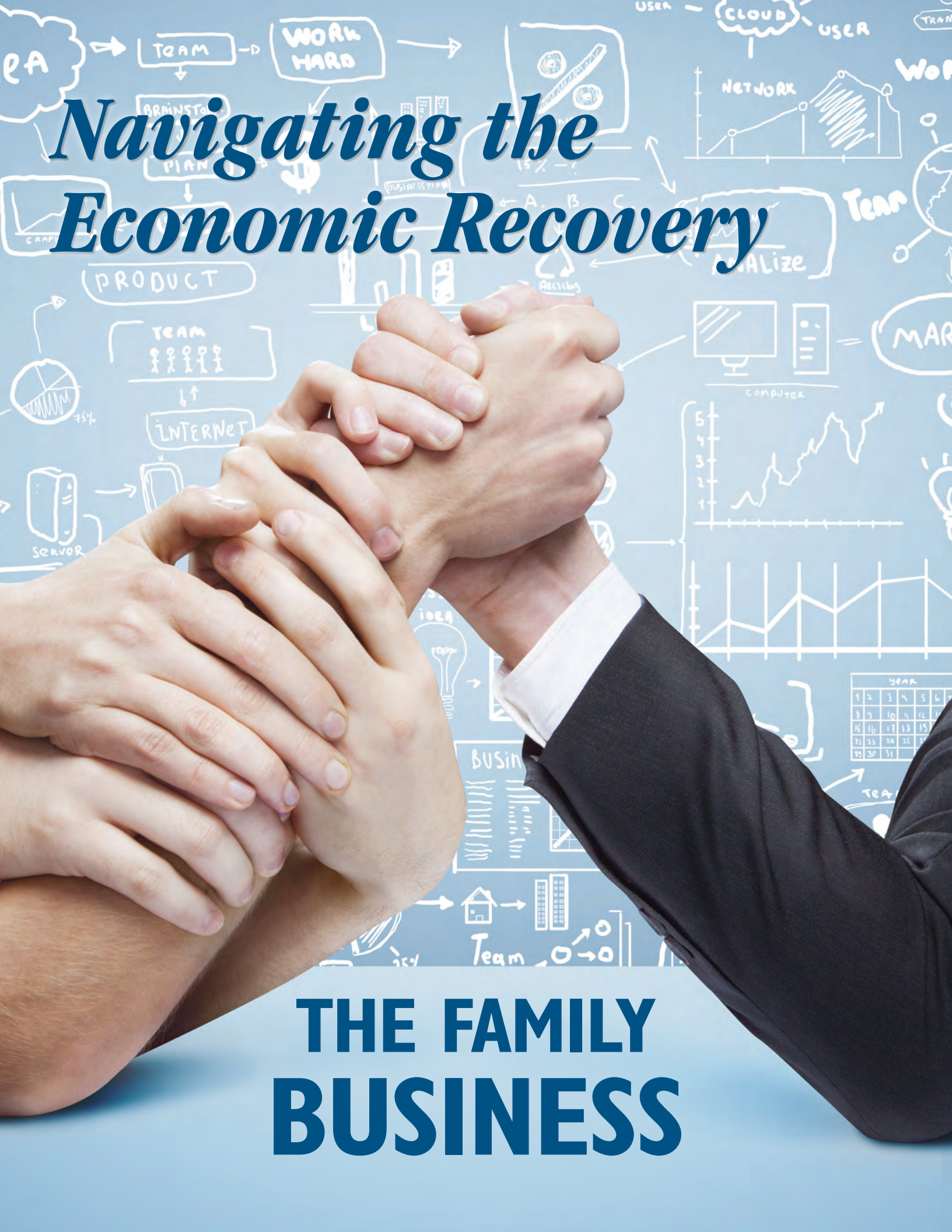
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# *Navigating the Economic Recovery*



**THE FAMILY  
BUSINESS**





In 2008 and 2009, the U.S. labor market lost 8.4 million jobs, or 6.1 percent of all payroll employment. This was the most dramatic job shortage from any recession since the Great Depression. By comparison, in the deep recession that began in 1981, job loss was 3.1 percent, or only about half as severe.

As the nation recovers, family-owned businesses have come out of the recession as stronger and more nimble companies. According to Dr. JoAnne Norton, a consultant with the Family Business Consulting Group based in Chicago, Illinois, 60 percent of Americans own or work for a family-owned business, and many of them are actively outperforming their non-family-controlled competitors. The ownership structure of family businesses often makes for a long-term orientation that traditional public firms may lack, giving them an upper hand in challenging times.

A study published in the *Harvard Business Review* contends that during good economic times, family-run companies do not earn as much money as companies with a more dispersed ownership structure; but when the economy slumps, family firms outshine their peers. When the *Review* studied business cycles from 1997 to 2009, they found that the average long-term financial performance was higher for family businesses than for non-family businesses in every country they examined. While public companies

focus on maximizing profits, family-operated businesses are likely to develop unique characteristics that keep them resilient during even the most challenging times.

## Personal Patience

The family firm is in many ways the epitome of “patient capital.” These businesses are willing to invest for the long term and do not suffer from the constraints imposed on their competitors by the quarterly reporting cycle and the need for quick returns.

“When a business thinks long-term, it doesn’t have to squeeze every penny out of an upturn,” said George Nelson, Jr., CEO of Louisiana Companies and Querbes & Nelson, independent risk management and insurance firms, and the chairman of Centenary’s Board of Trustees. “A business should be real sure it takes care of managing funds on the downside. For non-family-owned businesses, there may be more inclination to take risks, and if it doesn’t work out, you just say ‘oops’ and work somewhere else. If your father and grandfather ran it before you, you sure don’t want to be the one who kills it.”

Nelson, who is third-generation at Querbes & Nelson, argues that because owners of family businesses have a more personal connection to the money that is spent, they are more risk-averse and less likely to take on debt. Companies that took on too much debt in the early years of the Great Recession simply could not generate enough cash flow to pay their bills causing more than 170,000 small businesses in the U.S. to close between 2008 and 2010, according to analysis by the *Business Journals* of U.S. Census Bureau data.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**60** percent of America’s employment comes from family businesses

**50** percent of the U.S. gross domestic product is from family businesses

**35** percent of Fortune 500 companies are family-controlled

**90** percent of business enterprises in North America are family firms



When times are tough, many public companies find it hard to resist a quick fix, such as layoffs, leadership shakeups, or a sale. But for private family businesses—where employees and managers are relatives and selling out gambles with shared wealth—it is not that simple.

“We’re all in business to make money,” said Robert Schaumburg ’07, third-generation partner of Casco Industries, Inc., a Shreveport-based fire-services product distributor. “We want to sustain ourselves, but at the same time, it’s not necessarily all about the bottom line with us.”

Family firms appear to be saturated with the sense that the company’s money is the family’s money, and as a

result, they simply do a better a job of keeping their expenses under control.

“I believe that being in a family business is an advantage mainly because we can change a lot faster than public corporations.”

Robert Schaumburg ’07

“In family business you are your own pocket book, and that affects the number of people hired,” said Norton. “We don’t ramp up and hire a lot of

people, and we always run a little lean. Because of that, we don’t have to have as many layoffs even when times are tough. As a result, these cherished employees become intrapreneurial when they see things starting to go wrong in the industry and help the business come up with other products and services so that the family business and their jobs will survive.”

### Agile

A 2012 survey by Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC) found that the vast majority of family firms believe that they are more agile and flexible than their public competitors, giving them the ability to better fill gaps in the market. Some businesses surveyed even went as far as to say



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that the recession became a business opportunity because they have been able to move quickly to acquire businesses at historically low values.

“If you’re a family-owned business, there is not as much strife or argument between your partner or the stakeholder who is interested in short term return on investment,” said Dr. Chris Martin, Dean of the Frost School of Business and Director of Centenary’s Center for Family-Owned Business. Instead, Martin asserts, there are often common family values and mutual goals about where to take the company at a moment’s notice.

“I believe that being in a family business is an advantage mainly because we can change a lot faster than public corporations,” said Schaumburg. “We don’t have a lot of red tape. If we want to change something, we can do it in an instant. I once heard someone say the best thing about a family business is, if you want to change, you can change immediately, and the other good thing is you don’t have to. We’re not forced into doing something we don’t have to.”

Family-owned businesses have the ability to make good decisions and react quickly by not being bound by outside investors who are purely looking at the bottom line. These private companies will spend years forgoing profit to invest in the future of the company, a strategy difficult to maneuver in a public company or one with private investors.

Norton, who was a guest keynote speaker at the Center for Family-Owned



*Doug Schaumburg of Casco Industries poses next to a portrait of his father and founder of Casco Industries, Warren Schaumburg.*

Business’ March program at Centenary College, also sees nimbleness as an intrinsic value among family-owned business.

“I see this in the family businesses I work with,” says Norton. “I ask them how frequently they meet, and many reply, ‘Every Sunday at mom’s house after church.’ That’s where they make a lot of decisions because they are a smaller group of owners who often have the same values, same religion, and almost always know what the other is going to say, but they go ahead and ask anyway.”

## Shared Values

Seventy-eight percent of respondents to the PwC survey consider the family firm to be notable for the strength of culture and values. Shared values allow businesses to maintain a consistent point of view, experience, and message.

“I think that generally the values of a family-owned business are much stronger than the values of an entity that is not a family-owned business,” said Martin. “Those values are derived from the family. That consistency in service, values, and decisions really provides a level of outcome that can be far superior to other types of non-family owned businesses. You have a continuous line of individuals from that family as opposed to changes in leadership that take things in an entirely different direction.”



While the vast majority of businesses have values built around ideas like integrity, quality, and customer service, family businesses often showcase distinctive values that set them apart. They tend to have stronger “people values” than non-family firms and can put customers and employees ahead of profits. According to an article by *Business Spectator*, Sam Walton, the founder of family-controlled Wal-Mart, claimed that the focus of the company is “concern and respect” for the people. Nordstrom’s four-generation department store’s values are based on the “goodness of people.” These values create a competitive advantage.

“It’s all about your name on the door,” said Jim Broyles of the Broyles Group, founded by alumnus and trustee William Broyles ’89. “Your brand is your reputation, so you can see how people would take more into consideration.”

## Family Feud

Family firms are a generally energetic group of extremely ambitious workers. However, there are also obstacles particular to the family business sector. Some of these are specific to their business model, such as succession planning, but others are more general challenges, such as navigating disagreements with family members.

“There are not as many boundaries when working with family members,” said Broyles. “Be it a holiday, after hours, or dinner with family, it’s certainly more difficult to turn work off.”

Centenary’s Center for Family-Owned Business acts as a support group for those entrenched in the common struggles of family businesses.

“Problems [that arise] in a family business are relatively predictable, so having a program on those specific problems is pretty interesting,” said Nelson. “Just having a forum where people realize that their problems are not that different from others’ problems is helpful. Everyone tends to think their business and problems are unique, but they really aren’t.”

One of the highlights of the Center is the guest speakers who come

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***“Family businesses have the complexities of business but you layer on top the family dynamics. Topics we address at the Center generally focus on issues that impact both the family and the organization. That’s the major issue with family business—the layering of the family complexity on top of a business.”***

**CHRIS MARTIN, Dean of the Frost School of Business**

Many family-owned businesses in the Shreveport area have found answers to these situations as members of Centenary’s Center for Family-Owned Business. The Center, founded ten years ago, provides programming relevant to the continuity and health of multi-generational family businesses with seminars and workshops that focus on strategic planning, growth strategies, succession planning, and communication as well as legal, management, and financial issues unique to the family-owned company.





from around the nation from major family-controlled companies. Past speakers include Matt Saurage, President and CEO of The Community Coffee Company; Garrett Boone, Cofounder and Chairman Emeritus of The Container Store, Inc.; and Bruce Cakebread, President and COO of award-winning Cakebread Cellars.

Norton sees the Center as a crucial component for the community.

"Because family businesses make up so much of the economy, you would think business schools would be required to teach family-oriented courses when indeed most universities don't even offer these programs," said Norton. "The Center is high quality and well-sponsored with great companies. It's a travesty that we don't have more of these."

"It's very beneficial to gather new information from each speaker who visits," said Schaumburg. "It's also good to see other family-owned businesses from around town and see how many powerful people in Shreveport are associated with family businesses."

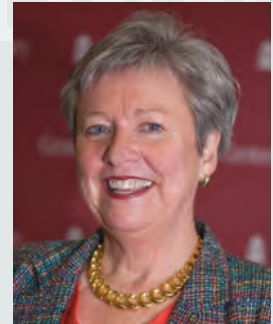
Martin agrees that these members are an integral part of Shreveport.

"Family businesses are the core backbone of this community, and most communities in the country, but particularly in Shreveport," said Martin. "Many regions are trying to bring in new business development and generally focus on the larger companies, but I think that's changed over the years because they understand these [family businesses] are long-term companies and need to be viewed as long-term for the area."

Family-owned businesses are an integral part of the economy. Non-family businesses cling to the idea that the greater the risk, the greater the return, but the first priority for family businesses is to protect downside risk. Instead of the fast-paced bottom-line ideals that force public companies to focus on maximizing tomorrow's share price, family businesses focus on preserving their assets and the family's reputation. ■

## ASK THE EXPERT

**In terms of business structure and governance, how do family-owned businesses differ from businesses with other ownership types?**



The governance structure of family-owned businesses is usually more complex than that of non-family-owned businesses because of the relationships among the family members involved. All family businesses are not structured or governed the same way. Some choose to operate with a somewhat informal governance structure while others operate under a more formal structure. Both can be effective, and family dynamics usually determine the effectiveness of either.

The most important component of the governance structure is to effectively separate family matters from business matters. Family businesses with more informal governance structures must take extra steps to ensure that the goals of the company and the family are being met, assuming the family members agree on the company's direction and the process for getting there. Generally, as family-owned businesses grow, a more formal governance structure is needed.

More formally structured family businesses often work with a board of directors to deal with the business policies and decisions of the company as well as a family council that handles familial issues. The board of directors may have external members to dampen and help negotiate the conflicts among family members. Both the board and the family council should work closely together and communicate openly with each other to ensure harmony. For the long-term success of the family business, one crucial component of the governance structure is a clear, agreed-upon plan for succession.

*Dr. Elizabeth Rankin is a Professor of Economics at Centenary College.*



# *The Challenge of* Hunger in Amer

The world produces enough food every day to feed every single man, woman, and child – 7 billion people – 2,700 calories, several hundred more than the recommended daily amount for most adults. The National Resources Defense Council released a report in 2012 documenting that 40 percent of food in the United States goes uneaten, equivalent to 20 pounds of food per person every month and \$165 billion wasted each year. Yet, the World Food Programme (WFP) reports that 842 million people – one in eight – go to bed hungry every night. Most live in developing countries, and children and women are particularly susceptible. Sixty-six million primary-aged school children attend classes hungry across the developing world.

Hunger is traditionally described as needing something to eat and is most commonly visually represented as a complete absence of food. Yet the issue of hunger is much more multi-faceted, involving both malnutrition and undernourishment. Undernourishment occurs when people have food but their intake does not meet daily caloric needs for their body. Malnutrition occurs when the physical function of a person is impaired and cannot maintain natural growth, be it physical or intellectual. Living day-to-day on a caloric intake significantly lower than recommended can have lasting repercussions, especially for youth.





regarding the hunger crisis. The World Food Summit of 1996 defines “food security” as “when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.” In the case of malnutrition, malnourished people can be underweight, have stunted height, and yes, even be obese. The World Health Organization explains that food security or insecurity is contingent upon availability, access, and use.

### Food Insecure?

Food insecurity is a term that Kendall Smith '10 unfortunately has to use every day in her current role as Marketing Coordinator for the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana.

“Here, we don’t use the term ‘hunger’ as much as we use ‘food insecure.’ The USDA defines food insecurity as someone not having access to enough food to maintain a healthy lifestyle.”

According to Feeding America, the largest hunger-relief charity in the U.S., 49 million Americans lived with food insecurity in 2012. Households with children, especially those with single parents, and those who identified as Black or Hispanic reported higher rates of food insecurity than the average. And a population that is routinely overlooked – seniors – accounted for 4.8 million of those who were food insecure in 2011.

Smith believes that hunger relief efforts like Feeding America are needed on both a national and local level to truly build positive thought and action:

“We [the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana] are actually a member of Feeding America. They work with 250

Food Banks across the states. Feeding America helps us network, secures grants as well as other funding for us, and provides us with corporate donors. Feeding America is a big partner for us as is Feed the Children. Through the advocacy of these big, national organizations, we are able to secure commercials and lobbyists to help further our efforts.”

With so much food insecurity affecting the nation, large-scale efforts have been underway. In an effort to tackle obesity and hunger head on, Congress passed and President Barack Obama signed the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act in December 2010. The bill, which helped 115,000 children gain access to school meal programs, passed with bipartisan support in both houses of Congress.

In her remarks at the signing, First Lady Michelle Obama noted,

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 14.5

*percent of U.S. households were food insecure in 2012*

# 66

*million American primary school-age children attend classes hungry*

# 49

*million Americans lived in food insecure households in 2012*

Poor nutrition is the cause of death for nearly 3.1 million children under the age of five every year worldwide.

A 2010 *New York Times* article detailed this struggle in “The Obesity-Hunger Paradox.” The South Bronx, possessing one of the highest obesity rates in the country, was found to have the most severe hunger-related issues in the United States. How can people be both obese and hungry?

Many advocates against hunger believe it has to do with food security – a term that pops up often in conversations



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our response is the  
**Peace World House**



*Our challenge* is  
living a sustainable  
life – our response is  
the **Environmental**  
**Sustainability**  
**World House**

“We can all agree that in the wealthiest nation on Earth, all children should have the basic nutrition they need to learn and grow and to pursue their dreams, because in the end, nothing is more important than the health and well-being of our children. Nothing. And our hopes for their future should drive every single decision that we make.”

### A National Effort

Feeding America donates food to more than 25 million Americans every year and serves more than 200 food banks across 50 states, supplying upwards of 2 billion pounds of food. The Meals on Wheels Association of America focuses on the senior population, providing meal services to those in need. Oxfam International, a confederation of 13 organizations working together, attempts to bring about lasting change by directly working with communities and empowering the underserved to better their lives.

Joanna Warren '16 is worked to address food insecurity through Oxfam and its CHANGE Initiative program this past summer. The program provided leadership and advocacy training for Warren, who subsequently has spent the current academic year as a CHANGE leader.

“I find hunger to be one of the most pressing contemporary issues our world faces,” said Warren. “Oxfam has a great campaign called GROW that focuses on justice issues surrounding food such as ending hunger and supporting a healthy farm industry internationally.”

Warren and Santé, a Centenary living learning community, implemented an Oxfam-specific public advocacy campaign in the fall.

Santé, dedicated to overcoming poverty

and diseases, is based in the World House for Social Justice. Students who live in this House – a common residence—work to remove barriers such as poverty that inhibit a person or persons from reaching his, her, or their full potential. World House for Social Justice students are encouraged to approach the world with an open mind and search for meaning and purpose.

With the help of the Residence Hall Association and the National Residence Hall Honorary, the World House residents hosted an Oxfam Hunger Banquet. Upon entering the banquet, students were handed a card determining their income level for the night (high, medium, or low) and served accordingly.

“I’m hopeful that the event provoked thought and action,” said Warren.

### A Hand Up

Abbey Rubel '02 has concentrated her hunger advocacy in the local community, more specifically the Cedar Grove community in Shreveport. Rubel serves as the Volunteer Coordinator for Common Ground Community Center, a faith-based organization that tries to make a difference through caring relationships and genuine acts of service. In her work at Common Ground, Rubel oversees the food pantry and a Thursday night community meal.

“We have seen our numbers at the community meal jump in the last year,” said Rubel. “A large meal used to be 120 people. Now, that is a small crowd, and we are averaging between 150 to 200 attendees every Thursday.”

Common Ground also supplies a bag of groceries to each household at the conclusion of the Thursday night meal to help families make it through the week.





*Abbey Rubel '02 and volunteer collect donations from Panera Bread.*

As they see need increasing across the community, Common Ground is planning for the future.

“One of the things we are working toward is giving our community members a hand up rather than just a hand out,” said Rubel. “We would love to start a food pantry co-op where each household would donate a small amount and then be able to come through and ‘shop’ for their own grocery items in the food pantry for four visits. This would allow community members to spend \$10 while getting \$50 worth of groceries each month.”

### **And for those who have no money to donate?**

“For those who could not afford it, we would absolutely hope to set up a program where they could volunteer their time at the community center in return for the fee. We would be giving community members dignity and choice and a feeling that they are banding together to help themselves.”

One of the many resources from which Common Ground receives food is the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana. The Food Bank sorts, warehouses, and distributes food to over 150 non-profit organizations in a seven-parish area. In 2012-13, the Food Bank distributed seven million pounds of food, helping 33,000 people each month.

The Food Bank works as a repository for donated items. The group receives donations from corporations, foundations, individuals, food drives, and Feeding America. Then, they store the donations and distribute them to local food pantries, shelters, soup

kitchens, senior centers, and community centers.

The Food Bank provides food to take home and hot meals for school-aged children through its Backpack Program, Kids Café, and a Summer Food Service Program, attempting to supplement the times during which children cannot depend on free breakfasts and lunches from school. A Senior Program helps local elderly stretch their budgets with a monthly box of non-perishable groceries.

Though the Food Bank cannot directly give food to those who need it, they provide goods to those food pantries that do, and when asked, help make the connection between the food insecure and food pantries.

“We ask those in need what their ZIP code is and give them the food pantry that is closest to their home, and they can go once a month to get a box of food,” said Smith. “For a family of three, it’s 45 pounds, and it goes up from there, or we can direct people to one of the meal sites in the Shreveport-Bossier area.”

The Food Bank also recently wrote a grant proposal to implement a software system to prevent client duplication. Once introduced, cooperating agencies will be on the same network and have the ability to share client profiles, showing an up-to-date listing of food pantries each person has visited.

“We understand that people need food, but we also are trying to serve as many people as possible,” said Smith.

### **Just a Symptom?**

With all of the organizations out there fighting hunger, why does the issue still persist? The World Food Programme



(WFP) notes that there are six interconnected reasons for the continued presence of hunger in a world that produces more than enough: poverty, lack of investment in agriculture, climate and weather, war and displacement, unstable markets, and food wastage.

The most pervasive reason for hunger in the United States continues to be what the WFP calls the “poverty trap: people living in poverty cannot afford nutritious food for themselves and their families, making them weaker and less able to earn the money that would help them escape poverty and hunger.” However, there does seem to be disagreement on the subject among non-profits. Feeding America notes that although food insecurity and poverty are related, they are not the same, and unemployment is a much stronger indicator of food insecurity. Nevertheless, in 2012, 46.5 million people were at or below the poverty line, the majority of whom were people aged 18 to 64.

Centenary trustee Reverend Carol Borne Spencer '69 and her husband Reverend Frank Spencer, both ordained deacons in the Episcopal church, experienced the link between hunger and poverty when they helped found Stewpot Community Services in Jackson, MS. The goal of the group is to “promote, develop, stimulate, and encourage physical and spiritual development by providing nutritious meals to the community.” Stewpot began as a simple soup kitchen but has since morphed into a 16-ministry organization, which runs four shelters for short and long-term living, a day shelter, a food pantry, and a soup kitchen. The Community Kitchen continues to provide a noontime meal to anyone – no questions asked – seven days a week, year round.



*Frank Spencer of Stewpot Community Services discusses their food pantry.*

“One of the things we are working toward is giving our community members a hand up rather than just a hand out.”

Abbey Rubel '02

“All aspects of poverty, the homeless, the working poor, and more are victims of food insufficiency, especially here in Mississippi – the hungriest state in America,” said Carol.

Frank continues to serve as the Executive Director while Carol has begun to serve also on the board of Hope Federal Credit Union, which helps the underserved in Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee. Hope currently has a program in New Orleans to deal with food deserts.

“Both Frank and I are motivated by our Christian mandate to feed the hungry and give shelter to the homeless,” said Spencer. “Poverty has many facets, and a community must care for those who cannot care for themselves.”

Anti-hunger advocacy groups have been trying to break down the barriers that poverty puts in place. At Common Ground, Rubel and her corps of volunteers not only provide hot meals and food bags but also clothing and children’s activities, working to form relationships and community. The Food Bank has created a community garden outside its walls with Shreveport Green in an effort to supplement senior meals





with fresh produce, an initiative echoed in Feeding America's own push for fresh goods.

"Produce is expensive," said Smith. "But that is what people really need. They can't afford it, but they need these nutrients to live a healthy life."

## The Fight Continues

United Nations food agencies reported in October 2013 that 12 percent of the world's population is still suffering from chronic hunger. That number is down from 17 percent of the population recorded from 1990-1992. The numbers are dropping – but slowly and not at the rate that was outlined in the UN Millennium Development Goal. The number of undernourished people was supposed to be halved by 2015. The slow progress could prove disheartening, but Rubel and Smith continue their work along with many others.

"It's the people who work here," said Smith. "The people I see everyday. We're like a family. We're not a faith-based organization, but we do the Lord's work. I have a passion for fighting hunger." ■

## ASK THE EXPERT

### Given America's wealth, why do millions of citizens still struggle to meet basic nutritional needs?



According to U.S. Census data, over approximately the last four decades, the richest 20 percent (and particularly the top 5 percent) of Americans have accumulated a greater proportion of wealth, leaving the other 80 percent relatively static or declining. Our failure to pay people who work full time a living wage has made it difficult for the poorest Americans to meet basic human needs, and there are two important contributing factors. First, underemployment is a major issue for many workers and families. Many Americans are employed full-time in various jobs yet do not make enough money to lift their families above the poverty line, which suggests a systemic problem with American labor policies and the distribution of wealth.

Second, there seems to be an unfortunate trend of blaming the poor for their situations which reduces income inequality to an individual problem rather than a large scale systemic one. For example, a widespread ideology in America is, "If you work hard enough, then you will succeed." By extension, those who do not succeed economically thus are perceived as lazy or somehow individually deficient.

Because of these perceptions, many believe that poverty results from individual behavior. They therefore fail to examine how our economic system creates such vast income inequality. If we do not ask this question, we will most certainly continue to blame the poor, applaud the wealthy, and remain blind to how social systems affect national challenges such as hunger.

*Dr. Michelle Wolkomir is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Centenary College.*

## ENGAGE

### Meaningful Life

Mother knows best: "What You Can Learn from Family Business" by the Harvard Business Review.

<http://bit.ly/1iIRy44>

Check out the study that explains why family businesses are so unique and explores ways to tackle their equally distinctive challenges.

<http://pwc.to/1fXUkQ7>

Explore the relationship between hunger and obesity.

<http://frac.org/initiatives/hunger-and-obesity/>

Find out where else hunger is striking using the Hunger Map.

<http://cdn.wfp.org/hungermap/>

# ENGAGE



## A FINAL WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Centenary encircles the world with wise, caring, and moral leaders developed to meet the challenges of the 21st century. We even have a dedicated office for Global Engagement! We encourage students to study abroad, earn Passport Points to offset travel costs, and participate in one of our many international or domestic May Modules. This fall, we are sending our incoming first-year students to Paris for over a week of immersive study and intercultural exploration. During their time at Centenary, our students are able to see first-hand that the world expands well beyond their front yard and that a great deal of education takes place outside the classroom.

International travel experiences prepare our graduates to enter the world as globally engaged citizens – and leaders. But what defines a globally engaged citizen? Global citizens respect other cultures, viewpoints, and religions. They understand that there can be friendship and cooperation without agreement. They see the rapidly changing world for what it is and wholeheartedly embrace the world's interconnected cultures. Global leaders dive headlong into complex problems and engage complicated issues with passion and perseverance.

This issue of *Encircle* features global citizens and leaders who approach problems with curiosity and creativity. Some are working to make sure that people's most basic needs are met: adequate food and clean drinking water. Some are working to preserve and reinvigorate our history and connections through the French language and culture. Some are contributing to their communities and leading their industries by strengthening family-owned businesses.

Centenary is developing leaders for a changing world – leaders who are sorely needed across our world to engage the complex shared challenges that we face. I hope that these leaders inspire you to reflect and act upon the challenges that you see in the world.

Take Care,

B. David Rowe, Ph.D.

*David Rowe is the 30<sup>th</sup> President of Centenary College of Louisiana.*





*The Paul Marvin Brown, Jr., Society*

# PLANNED *Giving*

What legacy will you leave in the world? How will your legacy impact Centenary College? A planned gift to the College can provide financial flexibility and tax benefits, but more importantly, it can have a real and lasting impact on our students. As Centenary develops leaders for a changing world, your planned gift will help prepare Centenary graduates to engage the world's greatest challenges. Give to the world through Centenary, and define your legacy today.

The **Paul Marvin Brown, Jr., Society** honors alumni and friends who include Centenary College in their estate plans. These gifts of future support will play an extraordinary role in ensuring Centenary's continued commitment to students, faculty, and the liberal arts.

*Your gift will make a difference.*

For more information, please contact David Henington  
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# DEVELOPING LEADERS FOR A CHANGING WORLD



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# ENCIRCLE



FALL 2014

## Unexpected Opportunity in the MIDDLE EAST

**Caring for America's  
Veterans**

**Transformation or  
Reconciliation in the  
United Methodist Church**

**Combating Bee Colony  
Collapse Disorder**









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# Centenary

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*U.S. News and World Report*

**2015 “Top 100” Southern College**

*Forbes*

**2015 “Best 379 Colleges”**

*Princeton Review*

DEVELOPING LEADERS FOR A CHANGING WORLD



***Encircle* features are divided into three categories based on 21st-century global challenges as identified by Centenary faculty and engaged by our students and graduates.**



### **Expanding Circles**

Our challenge is to expand our circle to promote respectful engagement with a broader world. In the 21st century, not everyone shares the same values or experiences, and conflict exists.

Through exploration and discussion of our differences, we must work to create the common ground necessary to build peaceful, just, and mutually beneficial relationships.



### **Sustainable Life**

Our challenge is to develop sustainable lifestyles and appreciate the natural environment in ways that do not compromise the capacity of future generations to satisfy their needs. We must learn how to lead a sustainable life, work to devise solutions to problems that use our planet's resources wisely, and create sustainable, just, and compassionate systems.



### **Meaningful Life**

Our challenge is to identify and live intentionally our deeply held values, ideals, and beliefs while respecting the values and beliefs of others. By approaching the world with an open mind, we search for meaning and purpose. We must explore our passions, question assumptions, and strive toward our potential so as to help others live their potential as well.



# ENCIRCLE

*Encircle* is published by  
Centenary College of Louisiana  
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FALL 2014

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## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

“One’s mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions.”

I first encountered this “anonymous” nugget of wisdom in a fortune cookie, but a bit of online research revealed that it was in fact penned by 19th century American writer Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., who drew deep from the well of his own varied experience to leave us with this eminently quotable quote. Holmes – a contemporary and friend of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow – was a poet, novelist, essayist, professor, physician, and medical reformer whose own curiosity was the only limitation on the changing “dimensions” of his mind.

Sound familiar? It should. I tucked that fortune away several months ago because it seemed like the perfect encapsulation of what students experience as they pursue a rigorous and diverse liberal arts education at Centenary College. Our students’ minds are challenged and stretched by their coursework, by service learning, by competitive internships, and by unique educational opportunities such as our *Centenary in Paris* program. Our graduates, like Holmes, are writers, professors, physicians, passionate reformers, public servants, and much more – sometimes all at once!

*Encircle* is intended not only to report, but also to engage. We hope that you also discover a new idea – or several – in these pages, and that afterward your mind never feels quite the same.

KATE PEDROTTY  
*Director of Strategic Communication*

### ON THE COVER:

A Metro train speeds through Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, May 2010. Construction on Dubai’s modern Metro system began in 2006, and it was officially opened on September 9, 2009, as the first Metro in the Gulf region. With 29 stations and a six-minute average interval between trains, the Dubai Metro system is the world’s longest automated driverless train system. At its five-year anniversary in September 2014, the system had recorded 500 million riders and boasted a 98% compliance with its published timetables.



H.E. Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the Roads and Transit Authority, noted that the Metro system  
“...reflects positively on the image of Dubai as a distinctive metropolis and a hub for business and advanced living styles.”

Photo credit: Sophie James



# Not satisfied with the status quo?



## Good. Neither are we.

Founded in 1825, Centenary College has deep 19th century roots and a bold 21st century vision. Through **liberal arts coursework**, **service opportunities**, and **intercultural experiences**, our award-winning faculty and caring staff prepare you to **engage global challenges** and discover your own **leadership role in a changing world**.

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A photograph of three men in professional and construction attire. On the left, a man in a grey suit and blue shirt is smiling. In the center, a man wearing a yellow hard hat, glasses, and a blue button-down shirt is also smiling. On the right, a man in traditional Middle Eastern attire, including a red and white checkered ghutra and a black thobe, is gesturing with his hand while looking at a document. The background is bright and out of focus.

# Unexpected opportunity in the Middle East

The number of American students studying in Arabic-speaking countries increased sixfold to 3,399 in 2007 from 562 in 2002 according to a February 2010 report from the Institute of International Education, a private nonprofit group that administers the Fulbright program for the United States government.

The long-standing perception of an unbridgeable cultural divide between East and West has become even more firmly entrenched in the post-9/11 and global War on Terror era. A narrative of religious, political, and cultural difference dominates mainstream American public discourse on the Middle East, with very few voices complicating or challenging





the sweeping generalization of cultural backwardness, corrupt politics, and extremist religion. But opportunities abroad are effectively opening students' eyes to the complex relationships that exist between the States and the Middle East. Could developing interactions abroad be a step toward understanding and peace between nations who have long been at odds with one another?

## NOT SO SIMPLE

Senior Kellen Klaus '15 just finished a semester in Washington, DC, at American University's Peace and Conflict Resolution in the Middle East and Beyond program. Klaus is passionate about learning more about the intersection of religion and economics and how the introduction of business can change the function of religious systems and practices.

During the program, Klaus and his classmates had the opportunity to study in DC, Turkey, Cyprus, and Jordan. Much of the curriculum's emphasis was based on interactive conflict resolution, a tool that encourages disagreeing parties to come together and re-humanize one another.

"When you allow stereotypes or preconceived notions to be broken down and figure out how this conflict came to be, you can then learn about each other and yourself to create a more peaceful environment," said Klaus. "Interactive conflict resolution is about seeing enemies as real people. It's a tough process."

Klaus explains that he learned through the program that many conflicts are the outcome of miscommunication and cultural misunderstanding. Therefore, there needs to be more interaction between the East and West to break down existing walls.

"I do think business is a viable option for breaking down communication barriers," said Klaus. "There will always be misunderstandings, but if there was

a greater intersection between groups, miscommunications would be less stifling, and people would be more forgiving."

While Klaus believes that business development can certainly be a tool for providing relationship opportunities, his first-hand experiences in the Peace and Conflict Resolution program also taught him that productive and meaningful intercultural communication is not a simple task.

Despite these challenges, some members of the Centenary family have forged meaningful relationships in the Middle East through the vehicle of business.

## A NEED FOR CHANGE

Dallas-native Ashley Hunter '00 has enjoyed a positive experience abroad, and it all started because of a need for change. She felt uninspired in the insurance industry as a young adult, and after a few years of stagnation in the field, she was offered a job by ING Financial Services working in Bahrain underwriting Islamic policies and law. Everything in her world changed.

"My bosses were all Arabs who practiced Islam," said Hunter. "As it turns out, my boss was the son of the ruling family in Bahrain, which made for an amazing experience."

Hunter left ING shortly before the recession but kept in touch with her boss abroad. He eventually helped her start her own business in the Middle East and even gave her an account to get her off the ground.



“It is much easier for a woman to own and operate an insurance business overseas,” said Hunter. “The ‘boys’ club’ deal is still institutionalized in United States, whereas that institution does not exist overseas.”

Hunter asserts that there are many misconceptions by Westerners about women in the Middle East. While she agrees some countries like Afghanistan, Iran, and Syria are not currently welcoming for Americans or women in business, many countries in the Middle East and North Africa are very protective of their women.

“Many of these places regard women so highly that if someone were to try and snatch me, someone would be there for me ready to fight back,” said Hunter. “There are very safe places for women. I am very comfortable in the Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Northern Iraq—I feel right at home. Also, I travel by myself all the time.”

## RISK AND REWARDS

While Hunter has had positive experiences working in the Middle East, there are still inherent risks in the region. The wave of revolutionary demonstrations and protests, riots, and civil wars in the Arab world that began in December 2010 – known as the Arab Spring – has caused governments in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Yemen to be overthrown, causing regional unrest and violence. Couple that instability with the Syrian Civil War, Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the Taliban’s war against Pakistan, and it is no wonder so many Americans perceive the entire Middle East as a desert of danger. However, these politically and religiously fueled disagreements do not tell the entire story of the region.

“I think most of the news media today are becoming more entertainment than actual news,” said Imad Anboubas ’77, a native Syrian. “Western news exaggerates things, blows things out of proportion, and uses a very wide paint brush when reporting. They’re reporting opinions most of the time.”

Anboubas is a petroleum engineer with over 30 years of experience in the oil and gas and petrochemical industries and serves many leadership roles in a variety of energy companies. He came to Centenary from Syria and stayed in the states after meeting his late wife, Kimberly Goss Anboubas ’79. While he has found that there is currently more opportunity in United States for the oil and gas industry, Anboubas still sees business in the Middle East as a good option for Americans.

“When the westerners come over to work, they bring in very specialized skills the natives don’t have,” said Anboubas. “I see a positive relationship between the two. The skills westerners bring have tremendously helped lead to the success and modernization of these countries, and the western workforce benefits monetarily.”

A 2010 study by the Middle East magazine *Gulf Business* found that westerners take home the most pay when compared with Asian and Middle Eastern expats in the same roles. This trend applies to the entire Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which is made up of Bahrain, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. Recruitment firms say Western workers have higher expectations when moving overseas as base salaries and living standards in their home countries tend to be higher compared to other parts of the world. The statistics show that there is money to be

## BY THE NUMBERS

**2,837**

Number of American students studying in Arabic-speaking countries between 2002 and 2007.

**49%**

Middle Eastern immigrants who had at least a bachelor’s degree in 2000, compared to 28 percent of natives.

**3.5million**

Americans are of Arab descent.





Mapping the Middle East.

made in the Middle East, but Anbouba warns that this trend is fading.

“That gap is closing very quickly,” said Anbouba. “There’s still some benefit from some areas where the retirement is much more generous, but the biggest benefit for a young person is to live, travel, and experience a different culture.”

## LASTING BONDS

For Hunter, the relationships she has made during her life abroad have been personally fulfilling.

“There is a huge expatriate community in Bahrain,” said Hunter. “But I chose to not get into that because, if I wanted to hang out with Europeans or Americans, I could go home. Most of my friends are nationals. They are Bahraini or Emirati, and they’re amazing. We have a lot in common.”

Hunter is proof that committing to fully integrate into a new culture and set down roots has been extremely beneficial to her personal and professional success. A study from the Kellogg School of Management finds that the act of simply living abroad may do nothing

# WORLD HOUSES

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Our challenge  
is living a  
meaningful life –  
our response is  
the **Social Justice**  
**World House**



Our challenge  
is expanding our  
circles –  
our response is the  
**Peace World House**



Our challenge  
is living a sustainable  
life – our response is  
the **Environmental**  
**Sustainability**  
**World House**

to enhance creativity and professional success; rather, the rewards of foreign exposure depend on one's ability to sincerely *assimilate* the new culture with the old one. In what the study's authors called "bicultural identification," Hunter illustrates how submersing herself in the culture of her host countries has yielded trust from her new friends and colleagues, as well as offered a rich life experience. The researchers of the study also surveyed 100 Israeli professionals and found that bicultural professionals achieved higher promotion rates and more positive reputations.

Luckily for Americans, to forge these lasting bonds and successfully embrace the culture, both Hunter and Anbouba agree that knowing conversational Arabic is not necessary to navigate the Middle East.

"Because the workforce is predominately made of foreigners, most business is conducted in English," said Anbouba. He also adds that if someone is meeting with an Arabic-speaking potential business partner, knowing a few words of greeting and having an understanding of the social norms of the region is appreciated. Learning not to fidget, staying calm in a business setting, and not exposing the soles of shoes are just a few examples of how Americans can adapt to a new culture.

Hunter has found that just being herself has been warmly accepted.

"I am the same person there that I am back in the states," says Hunter. "It's too hot for a Hijab. Natives realize the world is changing and that not everyone is a practicing Muslim, and not everyone who

is Muslim observes the traditional dress. They are also expanding their views on women."

Hunter also maintains that those she has built relationships with abroad have been some of the warmest individuals she has yet to meet, and that once you assimilate into the culture, "you're in."

"Just book a ticket," says Hunter. "It may seem daunting, but once you're there you won't regret it."

Anbouba and Hunter have found that life in the Middle East has expanded and enriched their circles of relationships, made the world a smaller, friendlier place, and fostered professional success. ■

## ASK THE EXPERT

### What are some opportunities and challenges when conducting cross-cultural business?



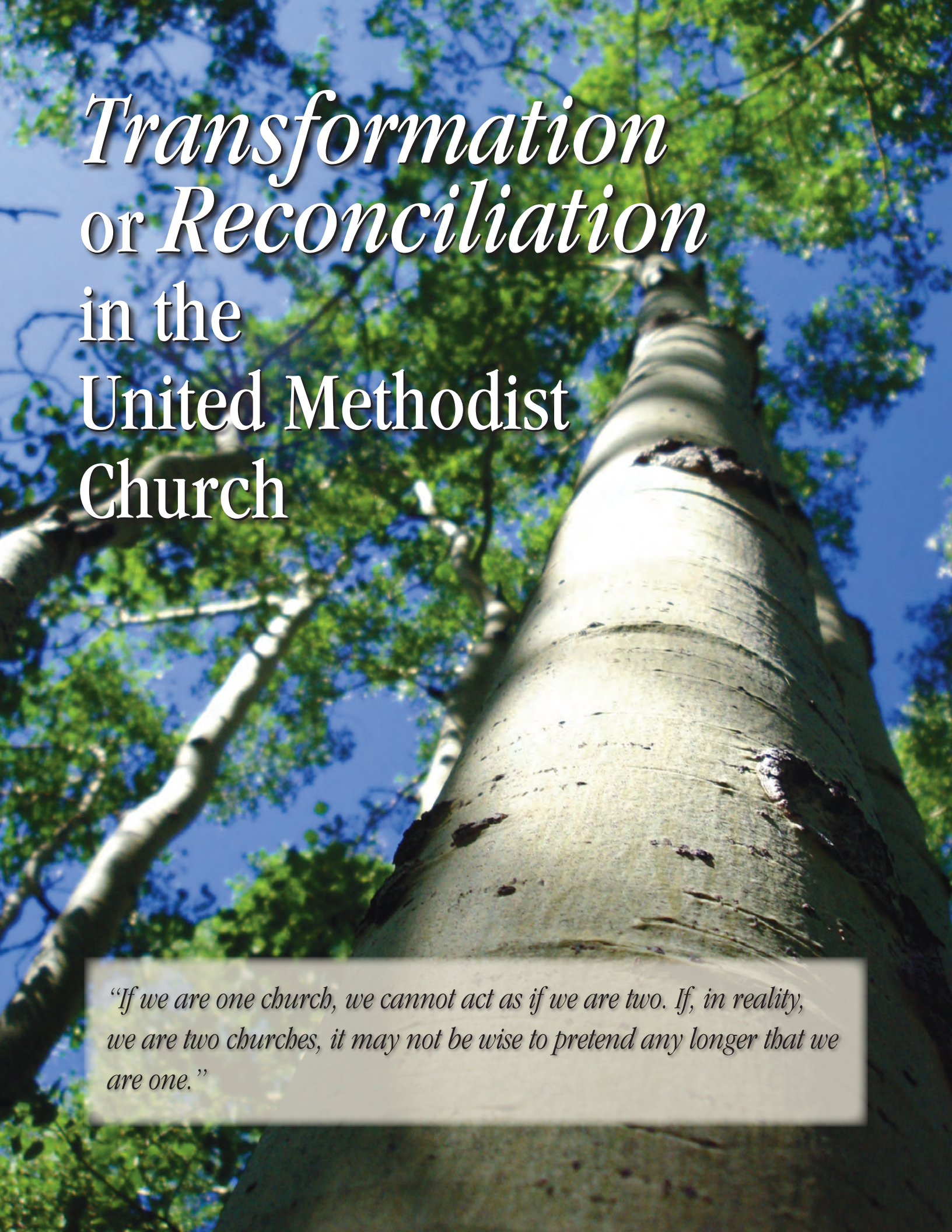
Significant opportunities exist for many businesses to sell their products and services globally. Increasing sales outside the U.S. may have an immediate and long-term impact on net profit. Purchasing materials and services worldwide may result in cost savings while opening the door for future sales and business relationships. International acquisitions may provide even greater opportunities to expand profitability through synergies gained with existing successful companies. Acquiring skills or technologies faster or at a lower cost is a potential benefit of such mergers.

The benefits of cross-cultural business also may present some of the most demanding and complex challenges. Successful businesses of all sizes must be able to compete effectively in diverse, multicultural environments. The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and The United Nations Global Compact Office issued a joint report in 2009: *Doing Business in a Multicultural World: Challenges and Opportunities*. This lengthy document addresses some critical issues faced by businesses operating across cultures and is an excellent resource for companies entering the international business arena.

The report identifies challenges for businesses operating in a global environment to include managing diverse workplaces, appealing to a wide range of diverse and increasingly demanding customers and consumers, negotiating international supply and distribution chains and business partnerships, and maintaining relationships with governmental authorities and community groups from all the countries where the company has a business presence. Major challenges for any international business opportunity include understanding the culture where they will be operating and knowing the country's laws and regulations applicable to doing business there. Certainly, the benefits of participating in cross-cultural business will more likely be achieved when businesses research and address their specific challenges before engaging in international business opportunities.

*Barbara Davis is Samuel Guy Sample Chair and Professor of Business Administration at Centenary's Frost School of Business.*





# *Transformation or Reconciliation* in the United Methodist Church

*“If we are one church, we cannot act as if we are two. If, in reality, we are two churches, it may not be wise to pretend any longer that we are one.”*



Following its March 2014 meeting, the Board of Directors of Good News, an evangelical witness and ministry movement within the United Methodist Church (UMC), released a statement containing this simple yet provocative declaration.

In the midst of a still-unresolved, four decade-long discussion about scriptural and ministerial issues connected to homosexuality in the United Methodist Church, many Methodist clergy and laity will immediately appreciate the emotional and complicated roots of the position that sees schism as the only possible path forward for the UMC.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**1,000**

international delegates  
to the 2016 General  
Conference

**7,392,654**

UMC lay members  
in the  
United States

**4,569,034**

UMC lay members  
in Africa, Asia,  
and Europe

**53,129**

clergy  
worldwide

“Everything you do, every ministry you offer treats everyone as valued and loved in the sight of God. There is no discrimination.”

Anita Dinwiddie '80

Other, more numerous voices within the denomination continue to champion solutions that might preserve unity while allowing Methodists to “agree to disagree” on issues such as the ordination of openly homosexual pastors and the official recognition of same-sex marriages by the church.

The next meeting of the UMC's top legislative assembly, the General Conference, is set for May 2016 in Portland, Oregon. The General Conference will be the setting – as has been the case since the 1970s – for nearly 1,000 international delegates to continue the discussion on the church's official position on homosexuality, and likely to vote on related resolutions that will have implications for the denomination's unity and its collective Christian identity. Even though this important gathering is still two years away, the spring and summer of 2014 has been marked by an intensification of the schism versus unity conversation, with influential UMC clergy on both sides engaging with the issues and with each other through public position statements and responses.

For the 21st century UMC, the stakes of this debate are high and are – consequently – highly emotional. Fundamental questions about the church's core identity and unity, its scriptural truth, and its clergy and laity's right to act on personal convictions have crystallized around one divisive issue: homosexuality. As the most recent installment of the conversation makes clear, passionate advocates on both sides of the divide sometimes struggle to engage respectfully while working toward a mutually acceptable and lasting solution.

## SCRIPTURAL DEBATES

The UMC's *Social Principles*, reflecting the church's position on contemporary social issues, have defined homosexuality as “incompatible with Christian teaching” since the 1972 General Conference held in Atlanta. The same General Conference added an amendment stating that the UMC does not “recommend marriage between two persons of the same sex,” while affirming the conviction that homosexuals are “persons of sacred worth” who are “entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured.” The 1988 General Conference retained the “incompatible” statement but added the affirmation that in the UMC, “God's grace is available to all. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.” The 1996 General Conference, however, adopted even more explicit language in the *Social Principles* prohibiting homosexual unions, stating, “Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual union shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.”





All of the amendments to the *Social Principles* have been rooted in specific interpretations of scripture, a fact which has significantly complicated the debate about homosexuality in the UMC and created sharp divisions between two positions most commonly identified as “progressive” and “traditionalist.” Traditionalist clergy and laity are able to point to several Biblical passages that appear to specifically condemn and prohibit homosexual activity and relationships, and argue that a Church whose beliefs and traditions are rooted in these scriptures cannot condone or celebrate practices that seem to run counter to them. Progressives consider the same scriptures to be reflective not of God’s “timeless” will, but of distinct times and places in distant history, on par with widely rejected passages supporting the subordination of women or approving the practice of slavery. At the same time, progressives draw on scriptures highlighting Jesus’s non-discriminating love for all people as the basis for their belief that anything less than full inclusion for homosexuals in the UMC would be a violation of the fundamental core of the Christian message.

Reverend Jack O’Dell ’78, lead pastor at St. Luke-Simpson UMC in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and an alumnus of Centenary’s Church Careers program (predecessor to the current Christian Leadership Center), believes that the discussion about homosexuality in the UMC has been “a very difficult conversation.” “Unfortunately within the culture, as well as the church, there is a tendency to demonize those who differ from us,” says Dr. O’Dell. “Even the



Katie McKay Simpson ’04 leads worship on launch day of a new worshipping community – the America Street service – at First United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge on August 18, 2013.

labels ‘traditional’ and ‘progressive’ are divisive in some ways.” The extreme divisiveness that has created and perpetuated these labels is perhaps symptomatic of the fact that the conversation is not just about homosexuality but about the correct and faithful interpretation of scripture, and who within the church should have the responsibility and authority to perform this interpretation.

## TO RECONCILE, OR TRANSFORM?

The changes to the UMC’s *Social Principles* made at the 1972 General Conference motivated both progressives and traditionalists to embark on decades of study, organizing, and collective action designed to achieve their deeply felt though drastically different goals. By 1975, a group of pastors, seminarians, and lay members had organized themselves into the UMC’s first caucus devoted to studying issues of sexuality and advocating for the full acceptance of homosexuals into the life of the church. In 1983 this group founded a program that eventually grew into the UMC’s Reconciling Ministries Network, which today includes over 629 member churches, communities, and campus ministries across the United States.

Reconciling churches and communities strive to be welcoming, safe spaces for people of all sexual orientations and also consciously work to be vehicles for education and advocacy about issues of sexuality in the church at both the local and national levels. In 2005, Anita Dinwiddie ’80 became the pastor of St. Mark’s UMC in New Orleans, which was the 26th American church to be recognized as a Reconciling Congregation. “Official Reconciling Congregations must come up with an inclusive statement, and everyone in the church must agree that ‘this is who we are,’” explained Dinwiddie.

"This becomes your mission. Everything you do, every ministry you offer treats everyone as valued and loved in the sight of God. There is no discrimination."

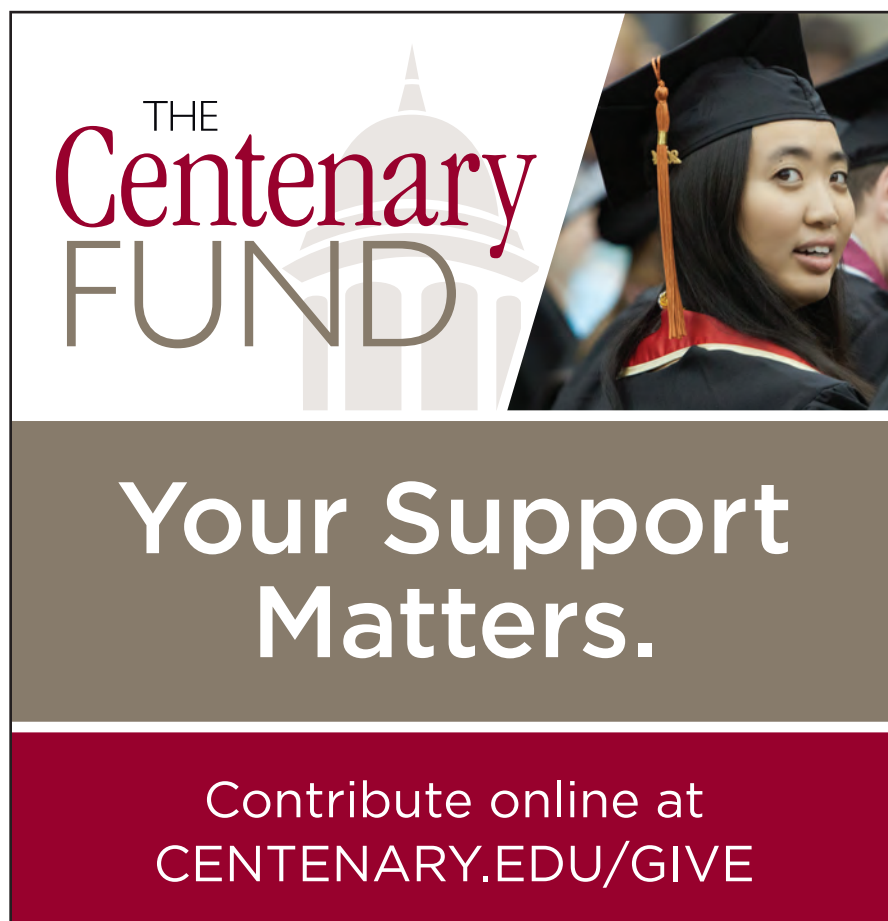
Conservatives have also organized themselves to educate church members about homosexuality and advocate for a reversal of what they see as an alarming trend of liberalization in the UMC since the 1970s. For some traditionalists, the Reconciling Congregations movement is tantamount to an endorsement of homosexuality by the UMC, rather than merely a case of being "in ministry for and with all persons" as currently allowed by the *Social Principles* in the *UMC Book of Discipline*. The Transforming Congregations program, founded in 1988 by a group from the California-Nevada Conference, urges Methodists to understand homosexuality as an unwanted "affliction" that can be overcome in both medical ("sickness") and spiritual ("sin") terms. In the years since its founding, the Transforming Congregations program has expanded its scope to include ministry to "all persons affected by relational brokenness resulting in sexual sin," and the group's website states its scripturally based mission as, "Equipping the Church to model and minister sanctified sexuality." In May 2013, Transforming Congregations became an official program of Good News, the UMC ministry movement whose leadership has raised the proposition that schism is the only way to solve the dilemma posed to the Church by calls for homosexual ordination and same-sex unions.

For Centenary alumna Katie McKay Simpson '04, Minister of Discipleship and Evangelism at First UMC in

Baton Rouge, narratives focusing on sin — such as the one promoted by the Transforming Congregations program — indicate a "misunderstanding of Christian theology," particularly of the sacrament of baptism. "Baptism is the marker of our identity as sanctified people that grow in love of God and neighbor through holiness of heart and life," said Simpson, "rather than those that mark one group (them) as 'sinful' and others (us) as 'seeking sanctification.'" Dinwiddie's understanding of her personal faith and her ministerial responsibilities expresses a similar concept. Noting that she believes that God called her to ministry "not to try to judge people or change them, but to love them," Dinwiddie asserts, "I want to be able to say that I did my best to love."

## A Way Forward?

Since the initial discussions about homosexuality in the 1970s, the UMC has endured several high-profile church trials of clergy who were known to have performed same-sex unions, in conscious defiance of the *Book of Discipline's* specific prohibition against such unions. In the most recent and arguably most explosive case, Reverend Frank Schaefer honored a request from his son and officiated at his wedding to another man in 2006, with a full understanding of the risks that came with his decision. "I did this as an act of love," Schaefer said in a June 2014 article in *The New York Times*. "...had I said no to his request, it would have negated all the affirmations my wife and I had given



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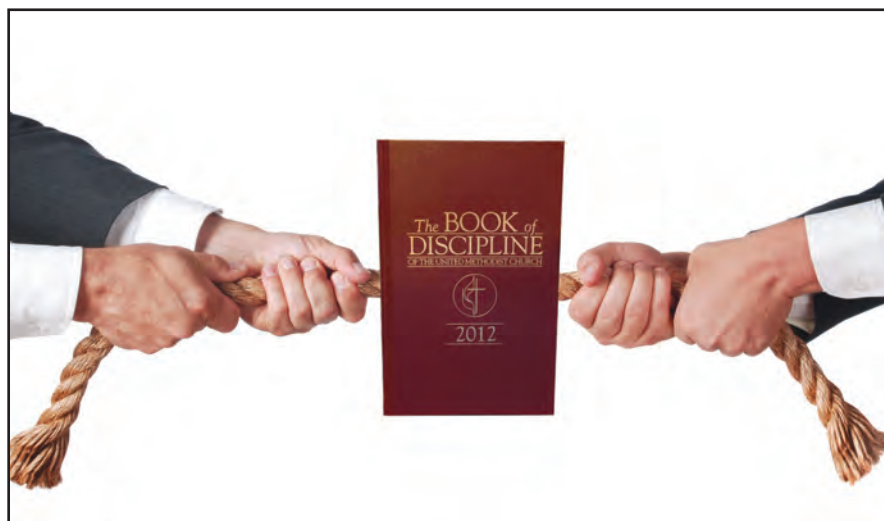




him.” Following a Church trial, Schaefer was found guilty of violating the UMC’s ministerial standards and was de-frocked in December of 2013. In June of 2014, however, a nine-member appeals committee made up of both laypeople and clergy members stunned many observers and overturned the conviction, restoring his ministerial credentials.

The news of Schaefer’s reinstatement came in the midst of an intense and important discussion (largely conducted online) about the future of the UMC as a united polity. Echoing the earlier statement by the Board of Directors of Good News, a group of approximately 80 traditionalist pastors and theologians released the document “Regarding United Methodism’s Future” in late May 2014, calling for an “amicable split” in the denomination. The pastors calling for a split specifically cited “recent clergy defiance of church law by performing same-sex unions” as evidence that divisions over homosexuality and Biblical authority were “irreconcilable” after four decades of debate.

As a counterpoint to this call for possible schism, Reverend Adam Hamilton of the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, and Reverend Mike Slaughter of Ginghamburg UMC in Tipp City, Ohio, produced a document entitled “A Way Forward for a United Methodist Church,” proposing that local churches, rather than the General Conference, be given the authority to “determine how they will be in ministry with gay and lesbian people including whether they will, or will not, allow for homosexual marriages or unions.” Hamilton and Slaughter believe that this



vision for maintaining unity will end the rancor that has often characterized formal debates at General Conference, and allow Methodists to be “bound together by what we share in common, rather than posturing to impose our will upon one another in areas where we are so deeply divided.” As of July 7, 2014, more than 2,600 clergy and laypeople had signed the Hamilton/Slaughter document to indicate their support for its tentative yet hopeful model to preserve unity in the Church.

.....  
 “I want to be able to  
 say that I did my best  
 to love.”

.....  
 Anita Dinwiddie '80  
 .....

A traditionalist response to “A Way Forward” was quickly forthcoming from a group led by Reverend Rob Renfroe, the president and publisher of *Good News*. An open letter to Hamilton and Slaughter warns that shifting decision-making about the nature of homosexual inclusion to individual churches would “only extend, localize, and exacerbate the acrimonious debate over the issue...for years to come,” arguing that

progressives’ commitment to “justice” for homosexuals “would require them to continue the fight.” The authors of the open letter assert that traditionalists “remain open to proposals that would keep us united, but not at the cost of condoning a practice that we believe is contrary to Scripture and the teachings of the Church Universal.” Echoing many other critics of the Hamilton/Slaughter proposal, O'Dell points out that while there have been previous proposals to use existing UMC organizational structures to allow for differences of opinion and conviction, “Letting an individual congregation vote on the issue is not an option in Methodist polity.”

Simpson and Dinwiddie are among the 2,600 signers of Hamilton and Slaughter’s proposal, and both remain hopeful that there is indeed “a way forward” for a United Methodist Church that is welcoming and inclusive to people of all sexual identities but that also respects the sincere convictions of its diverse membership, both within the United States and around the world. Dinwiddie has recently been encouraged by the “loving” manner in which proposals that she views as discriminatory

A group of approximately 15 diverse college students are posing for a photo on a paved path in front of the Eiffel Tower. The students are dressed in casual attire, including t-shirts, jeans, and skirts. Some are carrying backpacks or shoulder bags. The Eiffel Tower's intricate metal lattice structure is the prominent background, with its base and lower levels visible. The sky is overcast. A dark red horizontal band is superimposed over the top half of the image, containing white text.

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toward gays have been discussed and ultimately defeated at the Louisiana Annual Conference, and as a result remains “cautiously optimistic” that unity will prevail in some form.

Simpson’s experience as a delegate to the 2012 General Conference in Tampa has given her important insight into the way that the debate over homosexuality in the UMC has been conducted and has evolved since its emergence in the 1970s. “My experience has been that people have been willing to engage the topic respectfully around the table, but have not observed that level of respect at times on the legislative floor,” said Simpson. “The way we conduct our business lends itself to accepted patterns among our body of debating rather than discussing, and arguing at each other rather than talking with each other, seeking to be understood, rather than to understand.”

Simpson believes that the current discussion facilitated by voices such as Hamilton and Slaughter has the potential to “create the opportunity for a more holy conversation that respects differences between us.” While she remains unsure about the precise nature of a “solution” to the divisive questions that have been slowly driving some Methodists in different directions for more than 40 years, Simpson is firm in her belief about the upward trajectory of the debate. “I believe that all of these conversations will ultimately lead to a new way forward,” she said, “as I sense the Spirit is at work among us toward that end.” ■

## ASK THE EXPERT

**How has the UMC worked to resolve other scriptural and ministerial debates in the past? Is this debate significantly different than other issues such as the ordination of women and racial integration?**



For some, the debate on the denomination’s stance toward and language about homosexuality is no different than other issues, such as the ordination of women and racial integration/equality. Individuals see the argument as a civil rights debate. Religious leaders employed the use of scripture, taken out of context, to defend particular political and ecclesial laws concerning women and racial groups. Many Methodists believe this is the case with homosexuality. However, for some, the debate is significantly different. In the Pauline letters addressing women in ministry, Paul continues to set up relationships of mutual submission over and over. Regarding women in ministry, the context of the letters and audience deepens the understanding. The epistles speak very plainly about homosexuality in multiple contexts. For many United Methodists, this distinction elicits a larger conversation on the authority of scripture.

While some denominations rely solely on the interpretation of scripture to inform polity, The United Methodist Church utilizes the Wesley Quadrilateral in navigating such conversations of doctrinal changes. This method states that the authority of scripture is primary, but the church also seeks secondary insights from tradition, reason, and experience, respectively. Historically, tradition has supported the scriptural statements on homosexuality, but many United Methodists feel that reason and experience conflict with the first two aspects of the Quadrilateral.

For the 2016 General Conference, this greater tension over the authority of scripture will certainly arise. Honest conversation remains imperative as the United Methodist Church seeks to remain united.

*Valerie Robideaux '03 is Chaplain and Director of Professional Discernment at Centenary College.*

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# Combating



# Colony Collapse Disorder





According to a study by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture from 2013, there was an average loss of 45.1 percent of hives across the United States, up 78.2 percent from the previous winter, and a total loss of 31.1 percent of commercial hives. If this trend continues, it could lead to devastating consequences.

This June 16 marked eight years since the U.S. Senate unanimously approved the designation of a week in June as “National Pollinator Week” to create awareness and address the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations, particularly the honeybee. Pollinator Week has now grown to be an international celebration of the valuable ecosystem services provided by pollinators. The growing concern for pollinators is a sign of progress, but there is still work to be done.

Pollination is the transferring process of pollen from the male part of a plant to the female part, enabling fertilization and reproduction in flower bearing plants. More than 45 percent of the pollination process occurs by way of animals like birds, bats, butterflies, moths, beetles, or any other creature that carries pollen from one plant to another. But the real heroes of pollination are honeybees, which account for pollinating nearly one-third of the world's crops. However, over the last decade, these buzzing black-and-yellow insects have been disappearing at an unprecedented rate.

“Honeybees themselves are important too because they pollinate other crops like almonds and fiber crops such as cotton.”

The phenomenon, known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), was first noticed in Europe during the mid-2000s, when beekeepers began reporting unusually high losses in their hives. Of the colonies affected, nearly 50 percent demonstrated unusual symptoms that were inconsistent with classic causes of honeybee death such as unfavorable weather, infections, and viruses. Instead, there was a sudden loss of colonies' worker bee population with very few dead bees found near the colony, leaving behind the queen and her young. They survived and even had relatively abundant honey and pollen reserves, but because hives cannot sustain themselves without worker bees, even the queen and larvae died.

Back in the United States, beekeepers reported losses from more than a third of their hives and up to 90 percent in some cases. Bees were flying away and simply not coming back; keepers would find boxes empty of adult bees except for a live queen. No bee corpses remained to tell the tale. The losses were unusual and fast.

## WHAT IS THE BIG DEAL?

Bees have been known to get a bad rap for being a pesky nuisance around some households, but the truth is that these pollinators are a key player in the environment.



*Billy Hummer of Hummer & Son Honey examines one of his hives.*



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"Pollinators, especially honey bees, are crucial to our ecosystem," said Dr. Beth Leuck, Centenary's Whited-Douglas Chair of Neurobiology and Professor of Biology. "It is estimated that honey bees contribute \$15 billion of agricultural services annually in the United States. They also pollinate clover, which is used as forage by livestock, and cotton, which is an important crop here in Louisiana."

Billy Hummer of Hummer and Son Honey in Bossier City, Louisiana, has seen the adverse effects of losing a high percentage of his bees and, like Leuck, acknowledges their importance, especially in his line of work.

"We're a small industry but very important," said Hummer, whose mother Joanne Hummer '90 attended Centenary College and also works in the family business. "Honey is a natural sugar widely used in the food industry. Honeybees themselves are important too because they pollinate other crops like almonds and fiber crops such as cotton."

While there would be no famine if bees ceased to exist, many healthy foods would be difficult to come by, from cherries and broccoli to onions and coconut. Customers would likely pay exorbitant costs for farmers to use manufactured pollination techniques to supplement the work that healthy natural pollinators could do.

"If honey bee populations were to decline enough for the species to be considered endangered, or if the species were to go extinct, crops crucial to our diet and lifestyle would not be pollinated," said





*A patio flower garden created to attract pollinators to nearby vegetable garden.*

Leuck. “Not only would we then have fewer choices in the produce section of our grocery stores but there would be a concomitant loss of jobs in the agricultural sector. Loss of the honey bee as a species would be nutritionally and agriculturally catastrophic.”

## WHY IS IT HAPPENING?

As scientists have scrambled to solve the mystery of CCD, theories have started to surface. Research from the Harvard School of Public Health recently found that a particular pesticide, neonicotinoid, may be the culprit. The Harvard study found that while non-lethal doses of neonicotinoid, a class of neuro-active insecticides chemically similar to nicotine, did not seem to harm the bees during spring and summer, they had dramatic effects on the bees during winter.

In the study, six out of 12 pesticide-treated bee colonies abandoned their hives after winter and died off, while only one out of six of the non-pesticide colonies died off — and that colony loss was from a different disease that killed the bees inside their hive.

Additionally, findings from a team at Penn State argue that a chemical agent used regularly to boost the effectiveness of

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 1/3

Of all honey bee colonies in the U.S. have vanished

# 1 of 3

Bites of food comes from a bee-pollinated plant

# \$14 billion

Honeybees contribute to the value of U.S. crop production



pesticides and that also modifies the effect of other agents actually does as much or more harm than the actual “toxic” ingredients in pesticides. In one study these adjuvants were shown to impair adult bees’ smelling and navigation abilities, and in a separate study they killed bee larvae.

“It used to be a lot easier to keep bees,” said Hummer. “We never hit 90 percent loss but our normal was 20 percent and these past few years it’s almost been a 40 percent loss. That really hurt.”

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

At the conclusion of this year’s Pollinator Week, the Obama Administration introduced a new plan to support the research and work to save honeybees from CCD. Named the Pollinator Health Task Force, this group led by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency will attempt to further understand, prevent, and rectify the loss of pollinating insects (including bumblebees and monarch butterflies), as well as educate the public about how they can help these pollinators thrive. The task force will also work with state and local municipalities to protect honeybees and work to increase the quantity and quality of pollinator habitats on federal lands.

“It’s great the government has stepped up dramatically to help make sure there is more research being done,” said Hummer. “Without them it would be hard to keep the emphasis of protecting our industry going.”

According to the EPA, anyone can help the cause of protecting pollinators. Some suggestions include planting for pollinators and using native plants that provide nectar and larval food for pollinators.

“The native pollinators such as bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, and moths require pollen and nectar,” said Ed Leuck, Centenary’s Warters Chair and Professor of Biology and caretaker of the Ed Leuck Academic Arboretum. “Often the insect larvae can only utilize specific plant species upon which to feed. The honeybees in such trouble are more generalists, so any flowering plants are useful for them.”

Those with outdoor space can also consider installing houses for bees, reducing pesticide use, and planting flowerbeds instead of lawns. ■

## ASK THE EXPERT

### Pollinators and you... How can we be hospitable to pollinators?



Have you ever thought of bees as your friend? As a child I’m sure we all delighted in watching them buzz about in a clover patch — but only from a distance! Although we sometimes see them more as pests than gladiators in the garden, the truth is these insects and other pollinators provide a bounty of benefits to the world around us. Without pollinators such as flies, bats, butterflies, and hummingbirds, we would have much less food locally, regionally, and nationally.

There are many things we can do to increase the number of pollinators in our own yards, starting with intentionally introducing strategic plants. Hummingbirds, for example, are attracted to brightly colored tubular blossoms. To attract these beautiful birds you can plant hummingbird vines, day lilies, phlox, petunias, and impatiens. These plants will not only attract the hummingbird, but other pollinators such as butterflies and moths. Any flowers or shrubs that are colorful and have a fragrance are extra attractive to all varieties of pollinators. With the threat of habitat loss, pesticide use, and disease, our wild pollinators are decreasing at an alarming rate. Our natural pollinators are valuable and efficient, so it is imperative we work together with our neighbors to create a patchwork of pollinator gardens all across the country.

Swing by the Centenary community garden sponsored by Shreveport Green and you will see how we have implemented these practices to make a hospitable habitat for pollinators. Just a row of wildflowers or a patch of daylilies can assist these essential creatures.

*Donna Curtis '69 is the Executive Director of Shreveport Green. Shreveport Green is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting a healthy community through public outreach, community enhancement, and a specific request for the natural and built environment. Shreveport Green is the community partner for Centenary's Environmental Sustainability World House.*

## ENGAGE Sustainable Life

A world without honeybees would also mean a world without fruits, vegetables, nuts, and seeds. <http://tinyurl.com/ophffl>

There's no honey coating the problem. See what the EPA says about pesticides. <http://tinyurl.com/46lrm8>

Check out these educational materials about pollinators from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. <http://www.fws.gov/pollinators/>



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# Caring for America's Veterans





**“To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan.”**

These words spoken by President Abraham Lincoln in his second inaugural address represent the federal government's commitment to caring for those individuals injured or killed in defense of our nation, as well as their families. According to the official history published on its website, this quote was formally adopted in 1959 as the motto of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the federal agency that serves America's veterans.

“Veterans comprise 10 percent of Americans over 18 (7 percent of the U.S. population),” and when combined with dependents and survivors, the number rises to almost 20 percent of America's population. These facts are reported in the 6th edition of the annual *Briefing Book* by the Truman National Security Project, an organization that promotes awareness and engagement around military and international issues. The report paints a stark picture of the reality that today's veterans face as well as public understanding of these issues: “As the United States draws to a close the longest wars in its history, veterans of those wars and their families largely feel that the public does not understand their sacrifices.” Indeed, “the share of members of Congress who are veterans has also fallen drastically from a high of 75 percent in 1979 to 20 percent today,” according to the Truman project.

As highlighted in the very first edition of *Encircle*, advances in emergency medicine, especially those informed in and by combat situations, have saved the lives of troops who otherwise would have been casualties of war. While this is good news for these soldiers, their families, and the country, the greater number of injured veterans coming home to recover and reintegrate into public life has created new challenges for the government agencies and programs that exist to serve and support these heroes. According to the Truman report, issues like post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury (TBI), suicide, and veteran homelessness are of growing concern and will continue to compound the long-term fiscal challenges that America faces.

Ninety-one percent of Americans believe that spending for veterans programs should remain the same or be increased, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted in advance of the 2013 budget sequester, the automatic federal government spending cuts. A breakdown by political party demonstrates consistent support regardless of political affiliation with Republicans, Democrats, and Independents registering 55 percent, 51 percent, and 53 percent in support of increasing benefits and only 7 percent, 6 percent, and 6 percent favoring a decrease in benefits respectively.

Despite this support and a steady increase in budget authority for the Department of Veterans Affairs in both current and constant dollars, however, serious deficiencies exist in the delivery of care and services. Allegations of mismanagement at VA hospitals are not an anomaly among veterans' programs but only the most recent criticisms to draw public attention. An examination of one program illustrates the complexities involved in fixing the system.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**91%**

Survey respondents\* want funding for veteran programs to increase or remain the same.

\*2013 Pew Research Center Survey

**75,000**

Veterans reported as homeless in the 2009 count

**23.5%**

Drop in number of homeless veterans between 2009 and 2013



## IGNORING A PROBLEM WILL NOT FIX IT

In a May 29, 2014, opinion piece in *The Wall Street Journal*, former secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi discusses possible fixes for VA programs. He disagrees with suggestions that the VA is underfunded, citing an increase in funding and a decline in the veteran population, and proposes that Congress must take action to revise outdated systems for determining compensation and care delivery. For example, Principi calls for modernizing the disability compensation system to promote wellness in addition to compensating those whose quality of life has been compromised through their service. The current system

uses presumptive status to assign benefits. The Veterans Administration is required to assume that any veteran's diagnosis of a presumptive condition for his or her era of service is military-connected and therefore eligible for disability benefits. Conversely, veterans whose disabilities might be service-related cannot qualify for benefits if their conditions do not carry presumptive status.

Principi believes that this system errs on the side of caution and tends to award disability status for expected and common effects of aging that are not a result of service-related exposure. This caution leads to over-enrollment which increases not only cost but also the wait time for those with disabilities that have a direct, proven link to their

“Addressing poverty takes an active focus. World House students take part in projects that introduce them to all aspects of poverty such as food and housing insecurity....”

Lee Jeter

service and erodes public confidence in the system.

Retired Navy physician Rodney Armand '89 found that his experience with the Transition Assistance Program (TAP)



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for military retirees supports Principi's claim.

"When I participated in TAP in preparation for retirement after 21 years in the Navy, some presenters seemed to be coaching attendees on how to work the system to qualify for disability instead of giving information on benefits. Because criticism of misuse can be misinterpreted as criticism of the disability benefits program itself, I think people shy away from addressing the problem. Avoidance does not move us toward a solution, however."

Former secretary Principi acknowledges that the prospect of significant congressional action is doubtful given its record. He points out that VA appropriations bills have been passed on time only three of the last 25 years, and Congress has taken no action on a 2007 Institute of Medicine report it requested on how to improve presumptive decision making for veterans' disability benefits.

Armand believes that attempts at restructuring VA programs will be unsuccessful unless they incorporate free market principles. As an active duty physician in the Navy, he experienced a system that provided few incentives for individual performance measures such as number of patients seen or patient satisfaction.

"Lack of free market principles over time leads to a bureaucracy that implements incentives designed to protect the bureaucracy itself. Dedicated VA employees will always do their best to serve veterans no matter what, but it can be discouraging when



*Centenary students and staff help out at the 2013 Veterans Build in Shreveport, Louisiana as part of The Big Event, a student-led service project.*

someone delivering sub-par work receives the same (or more) compensation than those with better performance."

Armand is encouraged by the nomination of former Procter & Gamble CEO Robert McDonald to be the new VA Secretary. A West Point graduate who served five years in the Army, McDonald oversaw 120,000 employees when he headed Procter & Gamble from 2009 to 2013. Supporters believe that McDonald's management skills will help him implement needed reforms at the VA.

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"The VOA program provides the stable environment and training that these veterans need to become successful homeowners."

Lee Jeter

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## THE VALUE OF PARTNERSHIP

Although the task of reforming benefit programs presents enormous challenges, instances of successful program reform by the Veterans Administration do exist.

The Veterans Administration began targeting homelessness in 1987, twelve years after the fall of Saigon. Viet Nam vets had not begun registering as a significant percentage of the homeless population until 10 years after the end of the conflict. In contrast, veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan started becoming homeless



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***“Family businesses have the complexities of business but you layer on top the family dynamics. Topics we address at the Center generally focus on issues that impact both the family and the organization. That’s the major issue with family business—the layering of the family complexity on top of a business.”***

**CHRIS MARTIN, Dean of the Frost School of Business**

Many family-owned businesses in the Shreveport area have found answers to these situations as members of Centenary’s Center for Family-Owned Business. The Center, founded ten years ago, provides programming relevant to the continuity and health of multi-generational family businesses with seminars and workshops that focus on strategic planning, growth strategies, succession planning, and communication as well as legal, management, and financial issues unique to the family-owned company.

much sooner following discharge, giving rise to concerns that without an intervention the homeless veteran population would explode.

In November 2009, with a count of over 75,000, the VA announced a goal to end veteran homelessness in five years. Additional money was dedicated to expanding services through the already established collaborative system of government and community organizations. The 2013 *Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress* shows a 23.5 percent drop in the number of homeless veterans since 2009. Two important components of this program are community involvement and providing a continuum of care.

The Fuller Center of Northwest Louisiana mission of building not just houses but strong communities corresponds with the collaborative nature of the VA’s strategy for ending veteran homelessness. The Center has completed phase one of an initiative that is providing new independent housing for formerly homeless veterans. Fuller Center Executive Director Lee Jeter credits the support veterans receive from community partners for the success of the Veterans Build.

“The Volunteers of America transitional housing program is an essential partner in our Veterans Build project. The VOA program provides the stable environment and training that these veterans need to become successful homeowners.”

The supportive environment continues





once recipients move into their new homes in the Veterans Village. The houses share proximity not only to each other but also to the VA hospital and VOA offices where the veterans receive on-going support.

## BUILDING LEADERSHIP THROUGH EXPERIENCE

Centenary faculty, staff, and students were among the many community volunteers who helped the Fuller Center with phase one of Veterans Build in the spring of 2013. The two organizations formalized their partnership that fall when the Fuller Center became the community partner for the World House for Social Justice at Centenary.

Jeter considers awareness a primary benefit of the World House partnership.

“Addressing poverty takes an active focus. World House students take part in projects that introduce them to all aspects of poverty such as food and housing insecurity and gain awareness much earlier than many of their contemporaries.”

In addition to building awareness, projects such as Veterans Build offer students opportunities for successful engagement with the challenges of poverty that demonstrate the impact they can make. Planning is complete for phase two of Veterans Build. Eligibility for the 20 homes will be expanded to include those with special needs such as the elderly and disabled as well as formerly homeless veterans.

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Jeter is confident the leadership skills that World House students develop through these learning and service experiences will translate into unlimited potential for improving the lives of others.

## REACHING OUT

Failure of military training and skills to transfer to civilian occupations can be a contributing factor to veteran homelessness. Tuition Assistance (TA) is a military benefit that encourages service members to prepare for their civilian lives while still enlisted by paying for higher education courses taken during off-duty hours. The assistance is a benefit, not a loan: eligible members of the military do not have to pay back tuition fees that do not exceed the maximum rate.

As of fall 2014, Centenary College is offering a special credit hour rate to active military TA participants so that they can prepare for their futures at Centenary. Education is not the whole solution: it is our contribution to the solution. ■

## ASK THE EXPERT

**What are some of the problems that soldiers face when returning home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?**



The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan represent an increasingly common type of conflict: entrenched urban insurgency combined with suicide attacks, sectarian violence, terrorism, and torture. These battles are waged by ethnic warlords in regions characterized by ethnic and religious conflict. Against these challenges, less than one percent of the American population volunteered to serve their country and found themselves containing the violence in Iraq and Afghanistan, often for long-term multiple deployments.

In *Redeployment*, a recent collection of short stories, former marine Phil Klay captures a number of the common themes of returning veterans, such as traumatic flashbacks, problems transitioning back to civilian life, anger, frustration, alienation, pride mixed with disgust, and the uncomprehending platitudes of a disengaged American populace. Arriving home from Iraq, Klay writes “Looking out, I sort of knew where I was, but I didn’t feel home. I figured I’d be home when I kissed my wife and pet my dog....When I got to the window and handed in my rifle, though, it brought me up short. That was the first time I’d been separated from it in months. I didn’t know where to rest my hands. First I put them in my pockets, then I took them out and crossed my arms, and then I just let them hang, useless, at my sides.”

We should continue to see new publications of poetry, novels, and memoirs of veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan as soldiers have time to reflect on their experiences. One outlet for returning veterans is a topical section on war at [sixwordmemoirs.com](http://sixwordmemoirs.com), in partnership with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), where visitors can view and post stories about coming home from war.

*Chad Fulwider is an Assistant Professor of History at Centenary College.*

## ENGAGE Meaningful Life

Waitlisted. The scary truth behind VA patient wait times.

<http://1.usa.gov/1sIERPu>

Get involved and change the story. You can help homeless veterans with the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.

<http://nchv.org>

Veterans accounted for over 12 percent of all homeless adults in 2013. View the full story and draw comparisons of American homelessness here.

<http://bit.ly/1BsLRgv>

# ENGAGE



## A FINAL WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

I recently posed three important questions to our current Centenary students as an introduction to global challenges of the 21st century. Centenary guides students to meet these challenges head on through coursework and internships as well as through global study and service.

Now, I pose them to you:

*Will your service with and for others reduce or eliminate barriers to healthy, happy, and free living for people around the world?*

*Will your diplomacy create peace through non-violent social change?*

*Will your scientific research and practice preserve our planet for future generations?*

These are big questions that defy simple answers, and I realize that they might seem daunting. After all, how can one person really make a difference when the issues are so large?

*Encircle* helps us tell the stories of Centenary leaders who are extending Centenary's mission at home and around the globe to meet the challenges of our complex 21st century world with creativity, curiosity, and – perhaps most importantly – the confidence that their efforts do matter.

Centenary leaders move out of their cultural comfort zones to practice a kind of personal diplomacy that, though starting small, may have the potential to bring about greater cross-cultural understanding between East and West. Centenary leaders work hard to sow the seeds (literally!) needed to support the crucial work of pollinators – and thereby to sustain important crops – while others are searching for respectful ways to grapple with an emotional theological debate that has long sown discord in the United Methodist Church. Centenary leaders serve some of the most deserving among us – United States veterans – making a real and lasting contribution to these individuals' ability to live a dignified and meaningful life.

I am confident in Centenary's capacity to encircle the world with wise, caring, moral leaders developed to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Centenary leaders challenge the status quo and take steps – however small they may seem – to make the world more peaceful, just, and life-giving.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Rowe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent than the last name "Rowe".

B. David Rowe, Ph.D.

David Rowe is the 30<sup>th</sup> President of Centenary College of Louisiana



*The Paul Marvin Brown, Jr., Society*



# PLANNED *Giving*

What legacy will you leave in the world? How will your legacy impact Centenary College? A planned gift to the College can provide financial flexibility and tax benefits, but more importantly, it can have a real and lasting impact on our students. As Centenary develops leaders for a changing world, your planned gift will help prepare Centenary graduates to engage the world's greatest challenges. Give to the world through Centenary, and define your legacy today.

The **Paul Marvin Brown, Jr., Society** honors alumni and friends who include Centenary College in their estate plans. These gifts of future support will play an extraordinary role in ensuring Centenary's continued commitment to students, faculty, and the liberal arts.

*Your gift will make a difference.*

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**[centenary.edu/leavealegacy](http://centenary.edu/leavealegacy)**

## DEVELOPING LEADERS FOR A CHANGING WORLD



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# ENCIRCLE



FALL 2015

## A WORLD AWAY

*Dreams and Realities  
of Space Colonization*

Camp Minden and  
Grassroots Environmental  
**ACTIVISM**

**ADVANCING** Scouting  
in the 21st Century

**GREEN** Design  
and Construction





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*Space and Colonization*  
page 6



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# Centenary

**2015 Tier One National  
Liberal Arts College**

*U.S. News and World Report*

**2015 “Top 100” Southern College**

*Forbes*

**2015 “Best 379 Colleges”**

*Princeton Review*

DEVELOPING LEADERS FOR A CHANGING WORLD



***Encircle* features are divided into three categories based on 21st-century global challenges as identified by Centenary faculty and engaged by our students and graduates.**



### **Expanding Circles**

Our challenge is to expand our circle to promote respectful engagement with a broader world. In the 21st century, not everyone shares the same values or experiences, and conflict exists.

Through exploration and discussion of our differences, we must work to create the common ground necessary to build peaceful, just, and mutually beneficial relationships.



### **Sustainable Life**

Our challenge is to develop sustainable lifestyles and appreciate the natural environment in ways that do not compromise the capacity of future generations to satisfy their needs. We must learn how to lead a sustainable life, work to devise solutions to problems that use our planet's resources wisely, and create sustainable, just, and compassionate systems.



### **Meaningful Life**

Our challenge is to identify and live intentionally our deeply held values, ideals, and beliefs while respecting the values and beliefs of others. By approaching the world with an open mind, we search for meaning and purpose. We must explore our passions, question assumptions, and strive toward our potential so as to help others live their potential as well.



# ENCIRCLE

*Encircle* is published by  
Centenary College of Louisiana  
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FALL 2015

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## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Humans have a tendency to complicate things, despite the fact that we've probably all enjoyed the sensation of sudden, profound enlightenment made possible through simple yet powerful words, images, or experiences. As an unrepentant lover of complexities and the mountains of words that often accompany them, I personally struggle against this tendency almost every day, in both my professional and my personal life. When I know I've got something important to say but can feel it getting lost in a literary fog, I try to remember to yank on the reins and employ the advice of a good friend who once admonished me to K.I.S.S. (If you're unsure about that acronym, go look it up. It's probably very telling that I had to do the same!)

For a few years now, we've been talking about what it means to *Do More* at Centenary and beyond. But we've recently been able to crystalize and narrate our liberal arts mission in a way that, for me, achieves a synthesis of the simple and the profound. In other words, it says something that is easy to understand and visualize that is also rich with personal meaning and collective possibility. When we tell our current and prospective students, our graduates, and our community friends that Centenary *empowers you to Do More – for yourself, for others, and for the world* – we are putting into words a concrete roadmap for the ways that Centenary prepares its graduates to meet the complex challenges of the 21st century through academics, service, leadership development, and intercultural interaction.

We're also signaling something important about the process that enlightenment and discovery takes at Centenary, a process that we hope becomes a lifelong habit for our graduates. As you'll find in many of the stories in this issue of *Encircle*, the path toward the big (*the world*) often starts with the small (*yourself*). The first step is often simple, though the journey is complex, and it is meaningful because of the connections with *others* that we make along the way.

KATE PEDROTTY

*Director of Strategic Communication*

## ON THE COVER:

As movie-goers around the world this fall enjoy Ridley Scott's film *The Martian*, starring Matt Damon, teams of dreamers and doers are working to make the dramatic events depicted in this fictional account of survival on Mars a reality. In real life, as in the film, one of the most crucial prerequisites for permanent human settlement on Mars will be the ability to grow food. A 2014 Dutch study that tested plant growth in simulated Martian soil returned some promising results, but the researchers concluded that many questions remain before we're able to produce a Martian potato harvest to rival Matt Damon's.

Will life imitate art, and turn this conceptual rendering of a Martian greenhouse into a real photo Tweeted around the world? Stay tuned for the follow-up story in the Fall 2023 issue of *Encircle*, and maybe we'll find out.

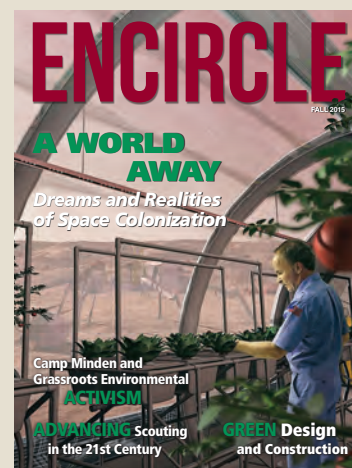


Photo credit: NASA



A photograph of a person in a red shirt and grey shorts shooting a basketball on an outdoor court. The court has a green artificial turf field and a red running track. In the background, there are green trees, a Parisian-style building, and the Eiffel Tower under a blue sky with some clouds.

We're sending  
every freshman  
to Paris, again.

Oui, we're  
serious.

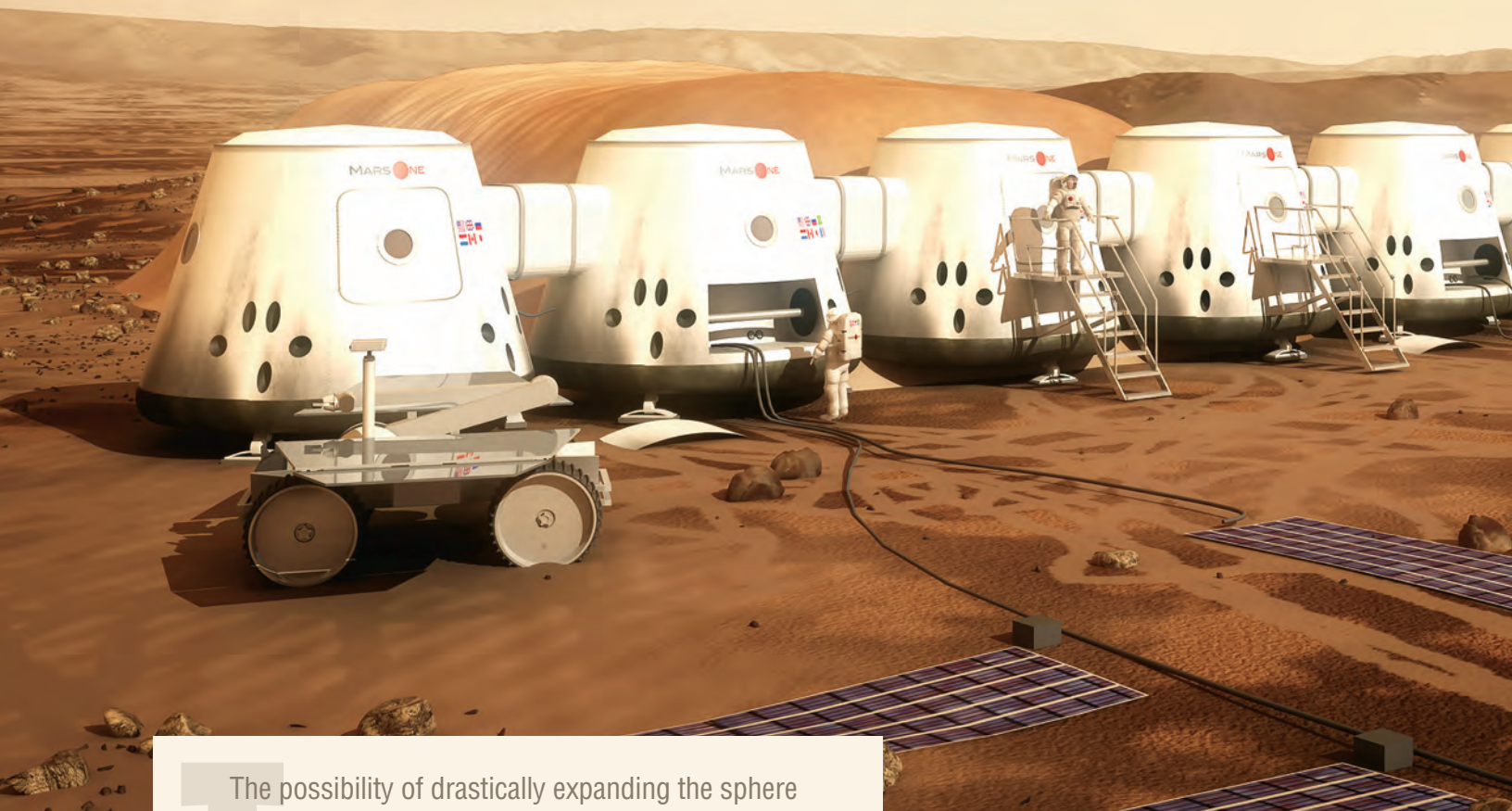
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# A WORLD AWAY: DREAMS AND REALITIES SPACE COLONY



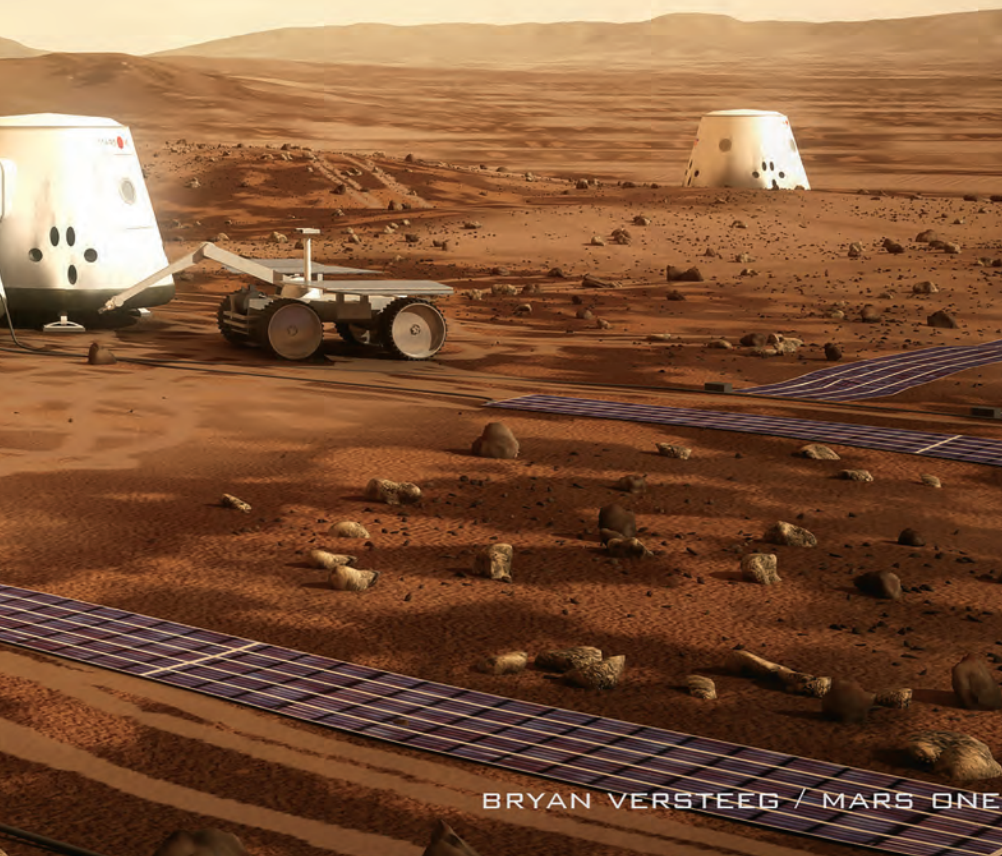
The possibility of drastically expanding the sphere of human influence and providing insurance against potential human extinction on Earth through space colonization has entranced both public and scientific imagination since the 1960s. The path toward making this dream a reality, however, remains a complex labyrinth of human ingenuity, policy, and ethics: Is space colonization possible? How do we regulate it? Even if we overcome these obstacles, is it a worthy use of resources?

In a 1963 interview for a lunar exploration episode of BBC's "Sky at Night," author and futurist Arthur C. Clarke speculated that humans would orbit Mars within 20 years, with a landing following in only five more years. The fulfillment of John F. Kennedy's 1961 call for a mission to put Americans in space and on the moon by the end of the decade with the 1969 Apollo 11 lunar landing seemed to





# OF ZATION



support the possibility of a Mars landing by 1988. The reality, however, was something quite different. Subsequent administrations moved American space policy away from manned bases on the moon and Mars toward shorter-term manned missions through the space shuttle program and unmanned explorations as well as cooperative endeavors with the Russians and others.

## Mission Accomplished

The beginnings of the U. S. space program were rooted in the politics of the Cold War and Kennedy's challenge to beat the Russians to the moon. America's race to space was instigated by Russia's successful 1957 launch of the world's first artificial satellite, Sputnik I. The Eisenhower administration's initial measured response did not match the American public's perception of the

event. Viewed through the lens of the Cold War, Americans considered the Russian accomplishment coupled with the December 6 televised failure of Vanguard TV3 a direct threat to national security and a slap in the face of the scientific community. The federal government responded by establishing the Advanced Research Projects Agency (renamed the Defense Advanced Projects Agency [DARPA] in 1972) and the National Aeronautic and Space Agency (NASA) prior to Kennedy's 1961 call to action.

Following the assassination of President Kennedy, President Johnson saw to completion the Apollo missions. However, costs associated with Johnson's Great Society programs and the Viet Nam War made the estimated \$25 billion investment (over \$100 billion in today's dollars) that had been required to achieve Kennedy's challenge unsustainable. The 1967 Outer Space Treaty, which banned nuclear weapons in space and prohibited national sovereignty over celestial objects, was drafted amid budget cuts to NASA. It remains the basis for international space law today.

## To Boldly Go

A number of presidential administrations since Johnson's have advocated for manned space colonies with little effect. On the July 20, 1989, 20th anniversary of the first manned moon landing, President George H. W. Bush announced the Space Exploration Initiative (SEI). The plan proposed construction of a space station, a permanent presence on the moon, and a manned mission to Mars by 2019. The cost was estimated at \$500 billion over the next 20 to 30 years, which caused members of Congress to balk, and SEI was never implemented.



Most recently, President Barack Obama has directed NASA to focus on sending humans to an asteroid by 2025 and to Mars by the mid-2030s. Supporters promote space colonization, either fixed on a planet or other celestial body or in an orbiting space settlement, as insurance against the possibility of extinction of the human race on Earth. Detractors argue that, if humankind has the ingenuity to overcome the barriers to space colonization, it also can solve the problems here on Earth that could bring about the extinction events cited by colonization supporters.

Daniel S. Goldin '97H, a NASA Administrator from 1992-2001, was asked in a 1998 interview for the Academy of

Achievement what his response was to those who argue that going to the moon is enough and that we should solve the problems we have on Earth instead of going to Mars. He observed in part,

"We wouldn't have jet travel today if we didn't explore. Hundreds of people lost their lives flying these crazy planes. We called it the X1 and the X2 and the X3. Why did they do it? People were dying of disease and we had social problems in the '40s and the '50s, but we all like to ride in jet planes because it brings us closer together. Space is something that's visible. It's dangerous. We know that there's danger, but we can't shirk away from it. If we intend to be a society that's going to be rich for our children, we've got to explore."

Goldin's belief in humankind's pioneering spirit is well founded. The Dutch nonprofit Mars One is planning to send teams of four on one-way missions to Mars beginning in 2023. The 19-week application period seeking 40 volunteers drew 202,586 responses.

Both supporters and detractors agree, however, that the obstacles to mass space travel and colonization are considerable. A few of the commonly recognized barriers include the following:

- **Launch Safety:** The enormous amounts of volatile fuel and energy required to propel a rocket into space make getting off the ground hazardous.
- **Radiation:** The Earth's magnetic field provides protection from space radiation. Acute or chronic exposure to humans traveling outside Earth's protective shield increases the risk of fatal cancers. Information collected by an instrument aboard the Curiosity Rover indicates that astronauts on even

the shortest round trip to Mars would receive radiation equivalent to a whole-body CT scan every five or six days.

- **Power:** Settlements would need a compact source of power. Mars receives about half the solar energy as Earth, but still enough to be used as a power source for settlements. Other types and more distant planetary settlements would require a different source of power, however.
- **Materials:** Transporting the volume of material necessary to establish a colony using current space flight technology would be cost and time prohibitive.
- **Resupply:** At least initially, a reliable infrastructure for the timely delivery of vital supplies would have to exist.
- **Separation:** The psychological effects of the loss of real-time communication and prolonged, or permanent, separation from Earth pose concerns for morale and motivation.
- **Extra-terrestrial life forms:** The existence of life on Mars, or elsewhere, even if microbial, would introduce ethical and biological questions that should be considered beforehand.

Cost, even more than technology, is central to the solution of most impediments as well as an impediment itself. For most of its history, the impetus for space exploration has been national security and, therefore, a function of governments, with funding influenced by political goals and exigencies. Recent public/private collaborations in space exploration are changing that dynamic. Fifteen years into the 21st century, investments by private companies and public/private partnerships are revitalizing space exploration.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**24.5 HOURS**

length of a Martian day

**708 HOURS**

length of a lunar day

**6 METERS SQ.**

size of solar panel array needed to power an avg. U.S. household on Mars

**1966**

peak year of funding for NASA when adjusted for inflation





## Near-Term Solutions: Long-Term Promise

Exploration of new frontiers has always held the promise of economic plenty for those willing to invest either financial resources or sweat equity. It would be a mistake, however, to elevate profit over vision as the prime motivator for exploration past or present. Though not an immediate goal of the private space efforts, space settlement is the vision held by many entrepreneurs. Advancements such as reusable rockets that will make the economics of near-term, potentially profitable projects such as space tourism, telecommunications, and payload delivery viable mirror those needed for space settlement.

When Elon Musk's Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) became the first private company to build a rocket from scratch and launch it into orbit in 2008, it accomplished something that only 10 nations had achieved independently in the 51 years since the Soviet Union launched Sputnik I.

In an article for the *Mercury News* following the successful launch of Falcon I in 2008, Musk reflected on the possibilities that would open up if SpaceX reached its goal of reducing the cost to reach space by a factor of 10, a feat that depends on developing reusable rockets.

"It would be recognized as one of the pivotal events in human history, in the history of life itself. It would make it possible to colonize Mars, to make life multi-planetary. In the absence of a reusable launch vehicle, that's not going to happen."

Michael Poole '02, a graduate of Centenary's 3/2 Engineering Program and the University of Southern California, shares Musk's enthusiasm and confirms that thinking about how his day-to-day work will contribute to the long-term goal of space colonization helps keep him going.

"Like many kids, I grew up part space geek, so it's motivating to know my actions here have a direct impact on the development of systems for safe, reliable, economical access to space. Everyone at SpaceX takes pride and ownership in this goal which keeps the workplace laser focused but fun at the same time."

As part of the development test group at SpaceX, Poole helps validate engineering designs during the R&D phase and also builds test equipment required for screening flight hardware.



*Michael Poole '02 poses with a parachute test article for the SpaceX Dragon V2 capsule. Poole organized and executed a Dragon V2 test in December 2013.*

## Miles To Go

SpaceX was near failure when the launch of Falcon I succeeded in 2008 after an investment of \$100 million and three unsuccessful attempts that detonated before reaching orbit. Today, the company has a launch manifest booked well into the future and, with Boeing, beat out competitors for a NASA contract that will make SpaceX the first private company to launch astronauts to the International Space Station. These two companies are also building (Boeing) and delivering (SpaceX) to the ISS the new docking stations that will receive Boeing's CST 100 and SpaceX's Dragon V2 space vehicles with regular deliveries of supplies and astronauts sometime in 2017.

Meanwhile, SpaceX continues its pursuit of developing a fully reusable orbital launch system. The first successful controlled landing of an orbital rocket stage on the ocean surface in April 2014 was followed by additional soft water landings and later attempts to land boosters on a floating landing platform. In the platform landing attempts, the booster was guided to the target but crashed into the landing platform or failed to stabilize on the platform and fell off. The company still plans to successfully recover, and relaunch, a rocket this year. Meanwhile, SpaceX competitors United Launch Alliance

and Airbus unveiled reusable rocket designs in April and June, respectively.

Without those reusable rockets, the economics for space ventures moving large numbers of passengers and materials over a great distance do not work. The 2004 cost to put one person into orbit for only a short time was estimated to be \$30 million. In an interview for a September 2014 article in *Exodus*, Musk predicted that full reusability would reduce mission costs by two orders of magnitude, to tens of dollars per pound. That reduction in cost is important not only for commercial ventures such as space tourism and asteroid mining but also for space colonization.

## The Right Stuff

In his Commencement address to Centenary's 1997 graduates, William Goldin emphasized not a specific set of knowledge as the key to making a contribution but rather the importance of ethics and the need to set goals, take risks, and not fear failure.

"Any one of you can contribute...and you don't have to be a rocket scientist." He continued, "You need to have a meaningful philosophy of life. You have to have a dream."

Mike Poole's experience led to a dream come true for a science and space enthusiast—an internship at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) before joining SpaceX in 2008.

And Mars? Will he be the first to sign up for the trip?

"To that I say, I'm a big fan of Earth and in no rush to leave for Mars, but it'd be nice to have the option if we need it!" ■

## ASK THE EXPERT

### Will we see extraterrestrial political conflict in the future?

I'm so glad you asked! Yes we will. It won't (necessarily) be conflict with aliens, but the kind humans bring with them everywhere they go.

Right now the 1967 Outer Space Treaty is a reasonable foundation for extraterrestrial cooperation, but like all international agreements it is limited by the interests of the countries involved. This treaty extended some of the principles of the 1957 Antarctic Treaty to outer space, banning WMDs, restricting military activities, requiring some scientific cooperation, and preventing any claims of territorial sovereignty. Like the Antarctic Treaty before it, the Outer Space Treaty happened because powerful countries wanted to remove a potential new arena of conflict. The US and USSR had already agreed in 1963 that they had little interest in weaponizing outer space or placing nuclear weapons there, so were able to find considerable common ground in the Treaty.

So why should we expect to see future political conflict in space? First, our treaties leave plenty of room for competition over access, resources, prestige, and military capabilities. States have already weaponized space with military and spy satellites, even if not with the WMDs banned by the Treaty. And as private companies become increasingly active in outer space, it is likely that their competition, just like that of terrestrial corporations, will become tied to national interests and national policies.

The second reason is that incentives to cooperate can change. Although the Madrid Protocol bans mining and drilling in Antarctica until 2048, increasing resource scarcity combined with greater capacity to extract resources in that harsh environment may lead countries such as China to challenge the ban. Similarly, while asteroid mining or a Martian gold rush seems farfetched now, technological advancement, whether by governments or private enterprise, may drive states to revise or abandon existing treaties.

Finally, there is a wild card involved in space exploration. It is almost certain that the first long-term settlers in space will not be humans but their agents: robots such as the Curiosity Rover, the Rosetta Lander, or the New Horizons spacecraft. Controlled remotely, they also require capabilities to act autonomously like drones or self-driving cars, and their autonomy will increase as technology allows and they venture further from direct human monitoring. Political conflict doesn't require humans, just their agents. How these extraterrestrial agents will be regulated and shape cooperation or conflict remains unknown.

*Matt Murphy is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Centenary College.*



## ENGAGE Expanding Circles

Find the text of President Kennedy's 1961 speech calling for an ambitious space exploration program here:

<http://www.space.com/11772-president-kennedy-historic-speech-moon-space.html>

Read about the Mars One round three finalists:

<http://www.mars-one.com/news/press-releases/the-mars-100-mars-one-announces-round-three-astronaut-candidates>

Get some Space Settlement Basics:

<http://settlement.arc.nasa.gov/Basics/wwwwh.html>





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# VISIT

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# Green Design and Construction



The United States Green Building Council (USGBC) reports that buildings in the U.S. are responsible for **36 percent** of total energy use and **65 percent** of electricity consumption; **30 percent** of greenhouse gas emissions; **30 percent** of raw materials use; **30 percent** of waste output (136 million tons annually); and **12 percent** of potable water consumption.





Given these statistics, implementing a standardized green building rating system for design and construction holds enormous potential for reducing stress on the environment. Despite on-going questions of cost, implementation, and application, green building, which has been described as applied sustainable development, is a successful—and growing—part of the environmental movement.

Many Americans associate the green building movement in the United States with the energy-efficient buildings constructed in the 1970s as a response to the crisis brought about by the oil embargo by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). During the late 1980s, when global environmental issues such as destruction of fisheries and other wildlife habitats and ozone depletion gained public attention, the holistic approach to construction labeled sustainable development was adopted.

The sustainable development concept expands green building's original focus on energy efficiency to take into account the lifespan of a building in relation to broader environmental and resource issues. Our Common Future, the 1987 report commissioned by the United Nations Commission on Economic Development also known as the "Bruntland Report," reflects the life cycle design concept in its definition of "sustainable development" as development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs."

## LEED, Follow, or Get Out of the Way

The first goal of the USGBC, a nonprofit organization formed in 1993, was to develop a sustainability rating system, resulting in version 1.0 of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Building Rating Program (LEED). The point-based, tiered format of the certification meant that owners and designers

"The holistic approach to construction labeled sustainable development was adopted in the 1980s."

could choose the level of participation appropriate to an individual project. Foregoing an all-or-nothing approach accelerated adoption of the system and led to broad recognition. Parallel development of complementary emission and industry specific ratings systems such as EPA Energy Star® and the National Association of Home Builders National Green Building Standards (NGBS) also has contributed to adoption of green design principles.

LEED's tiered rating format that associates points discretely to each criterion accommodates expansion and revision of the certifications to reflect advances in the building industry and public awareness of environmental issues related to building and design. Originally focused on commercial new construction, LEED has become a comprehensive rating system with standards for all structures in all phases of construction in all building sectors.



Above and left: Nancy '70 and Brown '71 Word's certified Energy Star® Austin, Texas, home.



Criteria currently address key aspects of green building across nine basic areas:

- Integrative process
- Location and transportation
- Sustainable sites
- Water efficiency
- Energy and atmosphere
- Materials and resources
- Indoor environmental quality
- Innovation
- Regional priority

A LEED certification may be achieved in four different systems:

- LEED for Building Design + Construction
- LEED for Interior Design + Construction
- LEED for Building Operations + Systems
- LEED for Neighborhood Development

## BY THE NUMBERS

# \$1,291

Amount average American family spends on home energy annually

# 80,000 tons

EPA estimate of reduction in greenhouse gas emission if 1 out of 100 American homes were retrofitted with water-efficient fixtures.

# 41 percent

2012 nonresidential building starts that were green according to a McGraw-Hill Construction report.

Under the leadership of U. L. Coleman III '90, '95MBA, the U. L. Coleman Companies, a multi-disciplines real estate and development company headquartered in Shreveport-Bossier City, Louisiana, has embraced LEED criteria as a path to sustainable construction in a new development. An April 2015 press release announced that the Lifestyle Center within Coates Bluff at Wright Island, a multifamily living development, had been awarded LEED Certification. Green design and construction elements that contributed to the certification as well as the overall sustainability of the project include the following:

- Smoke-Free Environment
- Landscaping irrigation water consumption reduced 50 percent
- Construction materials and workmanship achieving 20 percent energy cost savings
- Environmental education for staff and residents
- Eco-friendly maintenance practices
- On-site recycling
- 75% of construction waste recycled
- Regionally resourced and recycled (20 percent) building materials

## Retrofitting the Past

The archetypal green building is a sleek, modern structure, but one of the first post-Bruntland Report green projects in the United States was a renovation. President Clinton announced on Earth Day, April 21, 1993, that the Presidential mansion would be “a model for efficiency and waste reduction.” Improvements to the almost 200-year-old residence over three years produced \$300,000 in savings from annual energy and water usage, landscape expenses, and solid-waste costs. Atmospheric emissions were reduced by 845 tons of carbon per year. The success of that project led the Federal government to expand greening programs to its facilities throughout the country.

Nevertheless, cost continued to be cited as a “con” for green renovations. Expanding the calculation of a building's environmental impact to include the structure's entire life cycle has bolstered the argument of preservationists that new is not always better. A 2011 study by the Preservation Green Lab of the National Trust for Historic Preservation used life-cycle analysis to evaluate buildings in Portland, Phoenix, Chicago,



and Atlanta in four impact categories: climate change, human health, ecosystem quality, and resource depletion. The study concludes that building reuse results overwhelmingly in fewer environmental impacts than new construction when comparing buildings of equal size and use.

Renovation can be more costly than new construction, but case-by-case comparisons show that the opposite is just as likely to be true, especially when economic factors other than material cost are considered. Elizabeth Hider, Senior Vice President of Green Markets for Skanska, an international construction firm and partner in the Preservation Green Lab study, cited additional economic benefits for renovation at a press conference.

“Revaluing building reuse is not just an environmental issue. It’s an economic opportunity. One that will reduce our dependence on foreign oil and one that creates American jobs. Because renovation projects use less material, it is good for the environment, but it requires more labor, which has to be local. That’s good for America.”

## Little Keys Open Big Locks

Not all renovations need to, or should, be full-on, certified green projects. Relatively small changes in an older building can improve efficiency and environmental impact. Obtaining building certification through ratings programs like LEED adds to the cost of construction, and is not necessarily worth the investment. Architect Mike Newman, President of Newman, Marchive, Carlisle Inc., is mindful of the need to weigh impact against cost for his clients.



*The Word house under construction.*

“LEED certification is a good thing to do, but it is also, at least in the basic approach, a formalization of what we as architects have always done. Energy efficiency has always been a criteria in our design of buildings, while sustainability is a more recent concept. The balance to the expenditures for energy efficiency and sustainability is the client’s pocketbook and life cycle costing.”

Newman’s firm designed recent upgrades and renovations to Centenary’s science building, Mickle Hall. Though no specific rating certifications were pursued, energy efficiency and sustainability were at the forefront of the project. For example, project construction manager McInnis Brothers, Inc., oversaw replacement of all building windows with units that will vastly improve energy use in the building. Newman, Marchive, Carlisle partner Lauren Marchive points out that the new windows also contributed to the sustainability of the project.

“The windows were manufactured in Shreveport. Using local suppliers reduces overall energy costs by reducing the environmental impact from shipping. It’s good for the local economy, too. We try to specify as many locally made products as possible on our projects.”

Lighting is another area in which steps have been taken within the last few years to improve energy use on campus. As part of the \$5 million Centenary Renewal initiative, all of the exterior lighting and much of the interior lighting has been upgraded to light emitting diode (LED) bulbs. LED bulbs are especially suited to outdoor lighting since, unlike incandescent or compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs, they are not sensitive to temperature or humidity. Lower energy consumption for LEDs also offers substantial benefits for the environment. Carbon dioxide emissions for 30 LED bulbs measure 451



pounds annually compared to 1,051 pounds for CFL and 4,500 pounds for incandescent. Annual operating costs calculated using a 30 incandescent bulb/year equivalent equal \$328.59/yr. for incandescent; \$76.65/year for CFL; and \$32.85/year for LED.

Director of Facilities Chris Sampite cites Centenary Renewal accomplishments that make it possible to more accurately control building temperatures as one of the biggest efficiencies introduced in recent years. The heat and air conditioning in all but a few campus buildings now can be controlled remotely through a centrally located energy control system. Facilities personnel can set controls in advance to adjust the temperature based on planned usage or even turn heat or air off in unoccupied buildings. Remote access allows

pre-programmed settings to be altered easily in the event of schedule changes. Buildings not tied into the central control system are being outfitted with thermostats that can be set to enter energy mode at a specific time. Those thermostats can be adjusted manually on-site to increase or decrease room temperature for a three-hour period, after which the thermostat automatically returns to the energy mode.

### Something Old, Something New

Using new technologies to green old structures or design and construct new buildings fits the American mindset linking change to improvement and progress. However, design and construction techniques such as passive cooling and rain water capture that

pre-date modern materials have much to offer those seeking to build green structures, and technological enhancements have increased their effectiveness. The greenest new construction projects embrace both the old and the new.

A trip to visit a friend who was living off the grid in the West Texas desert piqued the curiosity of Brown Word '71.

"When we walked out of the 95 degree heat into his shed, which was constructed out of an early version of insulated concrete forms, the temperature dropped about 20 degrees with no air conditioning. He was also using wind and solar power. Furthermore, despite his being in the Chihuahuan Desert, where the average is some ten inches of rain, he captured enough to meet all of his water needs. The possibilities intrigued me."

Those ruminations led Brown and wife Nancy '70 to build one of the greenest homes in Central Texas. Insulated concrete forms that frame the first floor are similar to the ones his friend used and provide a similar effect: on an August day with temperatures of 113 degrees, the inside temperature at the Words' home, without air conditioning, was 84 degrees. The concrete walls also make the home extremely quiet and provide protection from Central Texas tornados. Water circulated through 10 geothermal wells heats and cools the Freon in only three heat pumps, as well as supplements electric heat for water heaters. A rain capture system can store up to 20,000 gallons, a 180-day supply, and allows the house to be completely independent from the Austin/Lake Travis water system. Moreover, they employ an 850' deep well for irrigation and

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*Concrete walls make the Word home extremely quiet and also provide protection from Central Texas tornados.*

pool needs. A 68-panel solar field can produce up to 85 kWh of electricity daily. Though still tied into the power grid, they often produce enough electricity to run the meter backward (in effect, selling electricity to the power company) and calculate a five to seven year payout on the up-front costs. Most lines in the electrical panels are outfitted so that usage can be monitored at the unit level, and data is recorded on a web site that allows them to not only see what lines are using the bulk of the electricity but also highlights possible failures—e.g. pumps that are not cutting off, or a refrigerator that may have failed.

A number of elements relating to the design of the house contribute to the structure's overall efficiency. The home faces south, which keeps the sun from hitting the walls with the most windows, which are highly insulating low emissivity 366 glass. Trees planted along the building's southern exposure further passive cooling. The architectural design of the home promotes cross ventilation that produces air flow when the windows are open. Installing foam attic insulation below the roofline—helping to create a thermal barrier—instead of the attic floor makes the entire attic an insulating dead airspace and significantly improves the efficiency of the HVAC equipment. In fact, the attic temperature is seldom more than 5-8 degrees warmer or cooler than any of the rooms below it.

The Words considered sustainability throughout the project, as well. In addition to sustainable and renewable energy and water systems, the Words made use of recycled, locally sourced, and natural materials. Examples include an exercise room floor that is 90 percent recycled tires and the use of 100 percent wool carpet and bamboo flooring. They recycled 95 percent of their unused building materials. The yard was landscaped using primarily native species with tree preservation a focus throughout construction.

Because one of their project goals was to promote awareness, the Words chose to apply for a number of green certifications. The house has a five-star rating from Austin Energy Green Building and is a certified Energy Star home. Their efforts to incorporate efficiency and sustainability standards into the process also earned the home certification as a Gold Level Green Home by the National Association of Home Builders Research Center.

### Curiosity has its own Reason for Existing ALBERT EINSTEIN

Potential savings and comfort, though important aspects, were not the only reasons the Words embarked on such a massive project. Brown's background as a graduate of Centenary's 3-2



Engineering Program with a civil engineering degree from Texas A&M gave him a leg up on understanding, but he does not credit technical knowledge alone.

“Don’t discount the influence of a liberal arts education,” explains Brown. “I had not only the knowledge to understand the principles underlying the technology my buddy was employing out in West Texas, but also the curiosity to imagine what might be.”

Curiosity and imagination are evident as active elements in the design and on-going operation of the home. The scope of the project alone indicates a triumph of imagination.

“You haven’t done anything someone else hasn’t done before,” a retired high-level employee of Austin Energy told Brown and Nancy. “But no one, to my knowledge, has done it all in one project.”

Sharing the results of their project so others may benefit from their experience is also an important goal for the Words. Their choice to insulate at the roof line provides one example of how their home has increased public awareness. This small change produced such dramatic results that their builder has adopted the procedure for other projects without adding substantially to the cost of a vented attic with fiberglass insulation at the ceiling level.

It is, one suspects, just the result they had imagined. ■

## ASK THE EXPERT

**What sort of changes can you make to “green” your existing home?**



You have many options when it comes to lessening your existing home’s impact on the environment. You can consider the site and utility usage, or be particularly mindful when undergoing renovations or furnishing a home.

### Site Impact

- Reduce your water run-off. It is best for the rain that falls on your property to stay on your property. Minimize the amount of impermeable surfaces (driveways, patios, etc.) and collect rainwater to use in your lawn and garden.
- Plant native plants and minimize lawn. The less potable water one uses on keeping a healthy looking yard, the better our lakes and rivers (and one’s bank account!).

### Utility Reduction

- Replace old appliances and systems with more efficient Energy Star® labeled ones. This applies to kitchen appliances, washers and dryers, air handlers, furnaces, water heaters, etc.
- Replace plumbing fixtures with low-flow varieties. Old faucets, shower heads, and toilets use much more water than necessary.
- Install an automated thermostat. This will keep you from cooling and heating spaces when they are unoccupied.
- Replace your incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescents. CFLs are a higher cost up front, but they last for a very long time and use much less energy.
- Insulate and seal your home. Insulating your attic at the roofline is much more effective than the attic floor. If you have an opportunity to blow insulation into your walls, even better. Also, check your old windows and trim for gaps. A little sealant goes a long way!

### Renovations & Furnishings

- Buy previously used and recycled products. This reduces the amount of perfectly good commodities and materials entering the landfill.
- Buy local products. Not only is this a good practice that boosts your local economy, it also reduces the carbon emissions needed to get that product to your door.
- Use rapidly renewable materials. Using materials like bamboo, leather, cotton, wheat, or wool leaves less of a gap in our ecosystem than hardwoods or stone.

*Sarah Lagersen Sherry '01 is a Lecturer of Art at Centenary College.*

## ENGAGE Sustainable Life

A Department of Energy review of 3 green building rating systems: Green Globes, LEED, and Living Building Challenge:

[http://www.gsa.gov/graphics/ogp/Cert\\_Sys\\_Review.pdf](http://www.gsa.gov/graphics/ogp/Cert_Sys_Review.pdf)

Learn more about Sustainable Historic Preservation:

[http://www.wbdg.org/resources/sustainable\\_hp.php](http://www.wbdg.org/resources/sustainable_hp.php)  
<http://www.preservationnation.org/information-center/sustainable-communities/green-lab/>

Find information on green solutions for new construction:

<http://www.greenbuildingsolutions.org/Main-Menu/What-is-Green-Construction>



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# CAMP MINDEN

# &

# Grassroots

# Environmental Activism

On October 15, 2012, a window-rattling boom echoed across Northwest Louisiana. “I was sitting in my office in Hamilton Hall when I heard it. The plate glass windows were shaking. I had no idea what it was,” said Centenary President David Rowe.





Just 25 miles east of Centenary College of Louisiana rests the Louisiana National Guard military training site Camp Minden, the site of a former ammunition factory built during World War II. While the factory closed in the 1990s, there are millions of pounds of military explosives sitting in cardboard boxes in warehouses including the explosive M6 propellant used in firing heavy artillery.

The Environmental Protection Agency said that the M6 stored at the site was rapidly deteriorating, and by August 2015, its risk of spontaneous combustion would greatly increase. With a looming deadline that could risk thousands of lives in the surrounding area, the EPA, U.S. Army, and two Louisiana state agencies recommended an open burn of the M6 over the course of one year. After the recommendation was made public, thousands of citizens, public officials, community leaders, and scientists voiced their strong dissent and rallied for the sake of their community's health and safety.

These dissenting voices pushed the EPA to consider alternatives to the open burn, and on May 8, 2015, the agency made the announcement that an incinerator with four pieces of pollution control equipment would be constructed at Camp Minden to allow the M6 to be destroyed via a contained burn. The decision was hailed as a win for the grassroots activists, who made particularly effective use of social media to grow their ranks and force public discussion on the issue.

## Historical Proportion

"The destruction of conventional munitions is a large, continuing task," said Lenny Siegel, Executive Director of the Center for Public Environmental Oversight, a group that specializes in contaminated areas owned by the government, in a January 2015 [truth-out.org](http://truth-out.org) article. "Under pressure from regulators to abandon routine open burning and detonation, the Defense Department has developed a range of suitable alternatives."

Siegel said that huge quantities of munitions are produced during times of war, and it is always more expensive to properly dispose of munitions than create them. Open burning, he said, is outdated and environmentally damaging, but it is cheap, and cost is sometimes the government's chief concern.

Environmental advocates believed that if the M6 at Camp Minden could be safely moved to an open burning area, then it could be safely transported to an alternative treatment facility just as easily.

EPA officials claimed that the recommendation to use open burn trays was more about time than money, but the agency's own memos on the disposal state that "the cost for off-site disposal greatly exceeds the cost of on-site action and is cost prohibitive due to the large volume of material requiring disposal."

"We believe this would be the largest chemical burn of its kind in U.S. history," said Frances Kelley, Director of Organizing for Louisiana Progress Action, in a March 2015 article written by [thinkprogress.org](http://thinkprogress.org). "It's very scary."

Shreveport-native Kelley is a graduate of Yale University and a current student

in Centenary's MAT graduate program. Once Kelley started researching the chemical makeup and environmental damage that M6 can cause, she organized the Concerned Citizens of the Camp Minden M6 Open Burn Facebook page. The group of citizens came together to push officials to get rid of the explosives in the safest and healthiest way possible for their community.

She first heard about the issue in 2012 after a storage magazine containing about 124,000 pounds of black powder and a tractor-trailer containing 42,000 pounds of M6 exploded, sending a 7,000-foot mushroom cloud into the air.

"Honestly, I did not even know what M6 was until then," said Kelley. "I had never paid much attention to the sign for Camp Minden on the interstate."

When the EPA first announced its intention to have an open burn of M6 in October 2014, Minden community members voiced their strong opposition, fearing that a chemical burn of this size would ultimately lead to sickness. Experts believe the emission from an open burn would release cancer-causing emissions spreading from Shreveport to Monroe. Nothing like this had ever been approved by the EPA before.

"I think people were concerned because of the science, what these chemicals could do," said Kelley. "Louisiana does have a long history of environmental problems. We have cancer; we don't want any more."

Kelley is backed by thousands who agree with her fear of increased sickness. Centenary's former Director of Educational Outreach, Jennifer Hill, wrote to the *Shreveport Times* voicing her concern in January 2015.



"Many of us were outraged to discover the U.S. Army and the EPA callously decided to pursue this plan, without providing a study on the open air burn's effects on our health and environment. When I saw the group Concerned Citizens of the Camp Minden M6 Open Air Burn had been formed on Facebook, I joined it immediately," wrote Hill. "The EPA has claimed the open air burn was safe, but Dr. Brian Salvatore [professor of chemistry at LSU Shreveport] said their conclusion was based on a computer model, for which they used erroneous measurements and faulty parameters."

## Rallying the Troops

Beginning in October 2014, Kelley and a team of committed volunteers coordinated the "Stop the Burn" campaign. "I spend about 12 hours or more every day on the campaign, including lots of hours on the phone with either members of our local team, the Louisiana Progress Action team in Baton Rouge, or the national environmental experts who are assisting and advising us," said Kelley in an interview with *The Forum*. "I also spend a lot of time doing research, talking with elected officials, writing press releases and emails, answering media calls, preparing for our meetings, keeping track of the Facebook group, and managing day to day tasks."

The Facebook group alone has more than 9,500 members including Britney Lee '09 and Sara Duet '11.

"I first heard about the M6 stored at Camp Minden from Frances in our morning prayer group at the Yellow House of Highland (an intentional community for young adults)," said Duet. "Once I got involved I had the opportunity to design a couple of graphics that



*M6 awaiting disposal at Camp Minden.*

have been used to represent the campaign and raise support for opposing the open burn on social media."

Duet was particularly interested in the issue because of the carcinogenic impact the open burn could have on the region.

"I first learned about Louisiana's high rates of cancer and environmental problems in a Social Problems course my sophomore year at Centenary College," said Duet. "That made me especially attentive to the news of Camp Minden. There are enough carcinogens and pollutants in our air and water already. The military and EPA were making decisions that would put our people, water, and environment in serious danger. This plan was not acceptable or humane, and we had to speak out to fight it."

Lee, the Community Coordinator for Highland Youth at the Friendship House and Yellow House, also became part of the concerned community of citizens.

"If someone doesn't see this as a pressing concern, then they probably have not been given or sought out adequate information," said Lee. "The dangers of the original proposal should be enough to scare anyone into action. We have enough scientific proof now that the toxins in our environment contribute to detrimental and fatal health conditions in Louisiana. My husband and I love it here and plan to live in Louisiana for a long time. We are expecting our first child, and it is very important to us that the scary effects that these chemicals would have on us and our soon-to-be-born son be halted."

## Demanding an Alternative

After thousands of community members came together to voice their concern, more than 70 social and environmental justice organizations across the United States joined the conversation to bolster the message. In a letter to the EPA in January 2015, the groups





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"M6 contains approximately 10 percent dinitrotoluene (DNT) which is classified as a probable human carcinogen."

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expressed support for Louisiana residents, workers, and families in their call for a safer alternative to the open munitions burn.

"By definition, open burning has no emissions controls and will result in the uncontrolled release of toxic emissions and respirable particulates to the environment," the coalition's letter said. "M6 contains approximately ten percent dinitrotoluene (DNT) which is classified as a probable human carcinogen."

Among those signing the letter to the EPA were Erin Brockovich of California, GreenARMY in Louisiana, Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Center for Biological Diversity in California, Chemical Weapons Working Group in Kentucky, United Tribe of Shawnee Indians in Kansas, Louisiana Environmental Action Network, Tribal Environmental Watch Alliance in New Mexico, Environmental Patriots of the New River Valley in Virginia, Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network in California, Defense Depot Memphis Tennessee – Concerned Citizens Committee in Tennessee, Southwest Workers Union in Texas, Arkansas Sierra Club, Physicians for Social Responsibility Wisconsin, and many more.

"Members of Concerned Citizens reached out to environmental experts around the country as well as other communities that have been affected by similar issues," said Kelley. "Laura Olah from Wisconsin, Citizens for Safe Water around Badger, was one of the first people we talked to and she organized that letter from organizations around the country on our behalf. We were fortunate to have help from people around the country, including Erin Brockovich, Louisiana's own Dr. Wilma Subra, and Craig Williams of the chemical weapons working group. We are particularly lucky to have had the advice of Jane Williams of the Sierra Club's Clean Air team, who has worked with us every single day for the last four months."

An EPA memo on Camp Minden and the M6 stated all options for reuse, recycling, and alternative disposal had been evaluated. The cost of off-site destruction was noted as being greater than on-site action and "cost prohibitive due to the large volume of material requiring disposal." But Kelley asserts this just is not true.

"We contacted several companies who have technology approved by the Army to safely dispose of M6," said Kelley in a January 2015 article in Minden's News Star. "We learned that some of these companies already submitted bids to Louisiana's Request for Proposals (RFP) for Camp Minden despite the fact that the RFP was only intended for the open tray burn method. We also learned that some of these companies have the capability to address the critical timeframe, quantity of material stored, instability and variety of material, improper storage concerns, and any onsite stability testing necessary for determining priority. We hope the state will give these companies and their proposals the consideration they deserve moving forward."

After becoming involved, Kelley became an advocate of a particular alternative of disposing the harmful propellant.

"The technology that I support is called supercritical water oxidation," said Kelley. "It was developed for the safe disposal of chemical weapons, which include propellants similar to M6 along with the chemical agents. Supercritical water oxidation uses the unique properties of water at supercritical conditions (under high pressure and temperature) to tear apart the chemical bonds in the hazardous organic compounds. It has very low emissions compared to other technologies like incineration, and the waste water will be tested to ensure that all the hazardous material is destroyed before being released to a wastewater treatment facility."

Unlike the open burn method, contends Kelley, supercritical water oxidation releases limited air emissions. The process uses an acid derived from coal to neutralize chemicals in water at 160 to 180 degrees and "supercritical water oxidation," where water is heated above 705 degrees at more than 3,200 pounds per square inch. This process was successfully used to destroy chemicals in munitions at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant in Richmond, Kentucky.

## Moving the Masses

Without the noise made by community members like Kelley, the open burn would have undoubtedly proceeded, possibly posing a threat to the health and safety of thousands of citizens. According to thinkprogress.org, it is still not clear why agencies decided that burning was the best solution for the M6. The EPA has also expressed uncertainty about why they have been characterized as the organization that made the ultimate decision. "We are of the perspective that the agreement was



signed by four parties,” said an EPA representative.

With so much ambiguity, concerned citizens took to action to develop platforms for dialogue regardless of the disposal method chosen. This dialogue pushed the governing parties to pause and create a public process for discussing the issue. Open meetings and forums continue to be held for the greater Minden community even after the decision to proceed with a contained burn, providing a more democratic approach to what may be a life-altering matter.

For Kelley, motivation to make a change comes from a sacred place.

“My activism comes directly out of my Christian faith,” said Kelley. “My faith community taught me to live always working for peace and social justice, and they trained me on how to do this kind of work. We have learned that there are many cases of childhood cancer in south Webster parish and that this is connected to previous groundwater contamination from the ammunition plant at Camp Minden. Our campaign team knows that we are fighting to prevent more children from dying.”

“We will be working to ensure that the chosen disposal method is implemented as safely as possible and that the existing soil and groundwater contamination at Camp Minden is cleaned up,” said Kelley. “We will be fighting for the law that prohibits the open burning of hazardous waste (the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) to be enforced so that no community in this country has to be exposed to open burns.” ■

## ASK THE EXPERT

### How did the anti-open air burn movement succeed while so many other grassroots movements falter – even those with important causes?



There is no magical formula for a grassroots movement's success. In this case, I think there were a lot of factors that converged serendipitously. One was an event that everyone in the region experienced – the explosion in October 2012. People don't forget something like that. Another key factor was social media. On Facebook, we not only shared Dr. Salvatore's column so that hundreds read it, but we shared our reactions to it and we formed a group around it. On the group page, we could set up rallies and meetings, discuss what action we should take, and keep our message cohesive and coherent. People from all walks of life joined this group – farmers in Camp Minden, political activists from Shreveport, artists and mechanics, Republicans, Democrats, and Independents. It was imperative that we kept the same goal in mind and didn't squabble over differences that weren't relevant to what we were doing.

It was also key that we didn't just organize and endlessly comment on Facebook. It was important for those of us who connected online in the group to meet one another in person, and it was important to meet the people from the organizations who signed the open air burn agreement. That made the movement tangible and real, especially for the residents living close to Camp Minden. Having rallies ramped up our energy and kept up our determination to achieve the end result. You can't summon and share that kind of energy online. The EPA, Army, and state government officials also needed to see we were real people and not just faceless numbers; we needed to see that they were real people and concerned about solving the problem, too (even though that was difficult at times).

Where I think we were most lucky was the leaders and experts we had, especially Dr. Salvatore and Frances Kelley. Dr. Salvatore had the expertise in chemistry, of course, but that was coupled with a passion to stop something he feared would harm people all over North Louisiana. He also communicated the technical details of the issue in terms we non-chemists could understand. Frances Kelley's experience in organizing and community activism ensured we were doing practical, effective tasks that made the movement successful. Every day, she posted a task to do on the “Concerned Citizens” page – usually, to call specific government representatives and deliver a specific message. I think this may be one of the most undervalued aspects to grassroots movements. Most of us who join a movement join because we like the idea, but we have no idea what we should do. And most of us want to feel useful. If a movement's members don't feel they're contributing much or being utilized, they will lose interest and stop participating in the movement.

*Jennifer Hill served as Director of Educational Outreach at Centenary College in 2014-2015.*

## ENGAGE Sustainable Life

The United States Environmental Protection Agency outlines the past, current, and future actions for disposing the explosives at Camp Minden:

<http://www2.epa.gov/la/camp-minden>

Learn more about the Stop the Burn campaign:

<http://stoptheburnla.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/campmindenopenburn/>

Read the thinkprogress.org article:

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/03/12/3610489/open-burning-explosives-camp-minden/>



A photograph of a Scoutmaster and two Scouts in Native American regalia. The Scoutmaster, a man with glasses in a tan uniform, stands in the center. To his left is a Scout in a tan shirt and brown pants. To his right is a Scout in a blue shirt and pants. Both Scouts wear large feathered headdresses and white sashes with red arrows. They are standing on a grassy field with trees in the background.

*Well Worth the Effort*

**Advancing Scouting  
in the  
21st Century**





The Boy Scouts of America (BSA), one of the country's most prominent youth organizations, has seen its participation rates drop from a peak of 6.5 million youth and adult members in the 1970s to around 2.5 million today.

Confronted with a generation more interested in video games and iPads than in wilderness survival skills and stirring campfire ceremonies, many BSA leaders and participants recognize that the survival of American youth scouting depends in large part on the organization's ability to tell a compelling story about its continued meaning, relevance, and utility. The BSA's programs and the translatable skills and values they teach must adapt to a swiftly changing and highly competitive 21st century world while preserving the formula that has molded generations of boys into adult civic leaders from the local through the national level.

### Tradition and Adaptation

A glimpse of some of the BSA's 21st century challenges is evident in an advertisement for mobile provider AT&T – a “proud sponsor of the Boy Scouts of America” – found on the BSA's website, which vividly promises outdoor adventure with monumental mountains, river rapids, and the headline, “Discover a world that can't be described in a text.”

Eagle Scout Marc Braden '98, '08 MEd is keenly aware that he and his fellow adult leaders face a complex and increasingly difficult task as they work to attract and engage new scouts while staying

true to the traditional core of the BSA program. For five weeks each summer, Braden has what he terms “the greatest job in the world,” leading a series of resident camps that serve between 200-250 scouts. Braden sees particular significance in the fact that he now has the opportunity to facilitate for a new generation an experience that was very meaningful to him during his formative years, as he has many fond memories of time spent at the Garland Scout Ranch (now the Kinsey Scout Reservation) when he was a youth.

“Scouting is like my second job that pays not in money, but in the satisfaction that I have helped put a positive mark on the lives of many young men. It is important to me that I help create and maintain the opportunity for others to participate in this great program that helped shape me into the person I am today.”

Braden can clearly pinpoint concrete ways in which scouting has provided meaning for his life, leading him on a journey of self-discovery and personal development that began when he became a Cub Scout in the second grade.

“Each person has a moral compass which guides their life. Scouting (along with my parents and the church) was a major contributor to the formation of my moral compass,” said Braden. “It also taught me the value of hard work, how to manage projects and set goals, how to be a citizen and a leader, how to work with a group, but at the same time be prepared to be self-sufficient. The program provides values that have been largely lost in our society.”

But some aspects of that program may not be fully meeting the demands and

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 1916

BSA federal charter granted by Congress

# 117,649,303

Number of merit badges awarded

# 181

Scouts who have become astronauts





needs of today's youth, and the BSA is currently working, for instance, to refashion summer camps like the ones that Braden runs at the Kinsey Scout Reservation. All BSA summer camp programs and properties are being closely evaluated, and camps will soon have to shift toward offering more "high adventure" activities if they expect to remain open.

Braden is excited about being part of the team that will be charged with implementing these changes at Kinsey, and he sees great potential for positive and exciting programming additions that

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"Scouting is like my second job that pays not in money, but in the satisfaction that I have helped put a positive mark on the lives of many young men."

Marc Braden '98

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will ensure that the camp he enjoyed so much as a youth will continue to be attractive to a new generation. However, he realizes that there must be limits to the adaptations made by the BSA, noting that the program "offers adventure and life lessons that cannot be found in a computer or video game screen."

In-person, collective activities like scouting face a very real threat from technology, especially as it powers the ever-more-real virtual world offered by games and apps on devices that are the constant companions of many young people. In a 2013 article in *The Atlantic*, Hanna Rosin explored some of the



Marc Braden '98 instructs Cub Scouts on how to properly stake a tent during a campout.

societal and parental anxieties about technology and its effect on child development within the "touch-screen generation," a group that has also been termed *digital natives* by education and technology writer Marc Prensky. Just as American scouting's emergence in the late 19th and early 20th century was championed by progressives as a remedy for declining patriotism and self-reliance, scouting enthusiasts like Marc Braden believe that the BSA program's emphasis on group-directed character development, active citizenship, and physical fitness can help mitigate some of the self-isolating and sedentary tendencies that characterize the "touch-screen generation."

## Meaningful Connections

Leah Muslow '98 and her husband Todd '93 have forged valuable and rewarding personal connections through their family's longtime involvement in scouting. Todd, an Eagle Scout, has served in various leadership roles at the Den, Pack, and now Council level, and Leah got involved when their oldest son became a Tiger Scout in 2008. Leah eventually served for six years as the Cubmaster for Pack 13 at Fairfield Elementary Magnet in Shreveport and is currently an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 14 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Leah has particularly enjoyed the chance to put her Centenary education and experiences — including playing soccer, membership in the Centenary College Choir, and service on the Centenary Activities Board — to use in surprising new ways as a scout leader.



"Scouting offers an opportunity for friends to get together in a non-competitive environment to learn about leadership, service, and skills that will enhance their lives, all things that Centenary teaches its students," said Muslow. "This is one venue where sports, choir, leadership, and service all come together, and I have been able to share with over 100 youth in our area."

Scouting has also provided the Muslows with the chance to reconnect with other Centenary alumni who are involved in the Norwela Council area, including Emily Glass Parratt '97, Sam Denison '00, Tyler Speckman '98, and Marc Braden. These alumni bring diverse skills and experiences to their volunteer work with Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, but Leah feels that their common back-

ground at Centenary has given them all exceptional preparation to set positive examples of engaged leadership and community-oriented action and service.

Steve Jones '93 discovered that his scouting involvement as a youth gave him an immediate connection to many of his Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity brothers at Centenary, a large number of whom had also "grown up" in scouting. In fact, Jones recalls that perhaps seven of the 30 TKE actives during his college years were actually Eagle Scouts, and eventually he realized, "No wonder I like these guys so much."

Jones remained involved with scouting during his college career, bolstered by this peer group that understood and appreciated his experiences. He also

believes that specific elements of the scouting program gave him the tools to forge many different kinds of meaningful connections, even with people very different from himself.

"The 12th point of the Scout Law, 'A Scout is Reverent,' taught me to be respectful of all beliefs and especially my own," said Jones. "I believe this orientation provided more fertile ground for Dr. Robert Ed Taylor to work with when I took his New Testament Survey course. I feel like I was more able to let others believe 'their way' because I started early in developing my own spiritual belief system."

Marc Braden also discovered a "unique bond" among former scouts during his years at Centenary, and some of these



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men are still his closest friends today. Although Braden was not active in scouting during his college career, he did maintain close ties with adult scout leaders and families who lived in Shreveport. He remembers these relationships as a vital connection and support system, because his parents lived out of state.

As an adult volunteer leader, Braden has several times taken on the responsibility of rebuilding local BSA programs that were in danger of folding, always motivated by the desire to provide an opportunity for his son to have the same kinds of experiences in scouting that he did when he was younger. For Braden, the Muslows, and Steve Jones, the chance to make meaningful personal connections for themselves and their families in an increasingly impersonal world has been one of the most enduring and significant gifts of scouting.

### A Safe Place

Marc Braden's personal journey as a scout, a student, a professional educator, and eventually a scout leader has illustrated another significant aspect of the BSA program that was perhaps not immediately apparent when he set off as a Cub Scout in the second grade.

Those involved with scouting immediately become familiar with the sometimes complicated "advancement" system, individual and group activities that lead scouts through a series of badges, ranks, and special awards that – for the most accomplished and dedicated – culminate in the BSA's most prestigious and most rigorous honor, the Eagle Scout designation. Scouts proudly display the badges they've earned on their uniforms during official BSA activities, providing a visible symbol of achievement and mastery of certain skills and experiences.

Despite this emphasis on achievement and public signifiers of "success" that has been a part of the BSA program and BSA culture from its earliest inception, Braden asserts that the most valuable and transferable life lesson he learned from scouting was not about success, but instead about failure.

"Scouting celebrates success, but also (and more importantly in my opinion) provides a safe place in which to fail.

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This is important because people learn much more from their mistakes than from their successes,” said Braden. “The most important lesson scouting taught me was to try and not be afraid of failure as long as I did not repeat the same mistake twice.”

Steve Jones believes that scouting has helped him cultivate a personal approach to “success” that runs counter to the idea of instant gratification that rules so much of our current culture. Ever since one of his scout leaders sat him down long ago and asked, “Steve, do you know how to eat an elephant?,” Jones has learned to appreciate the merits of approaching puzzles and problems “one bite at a time.”

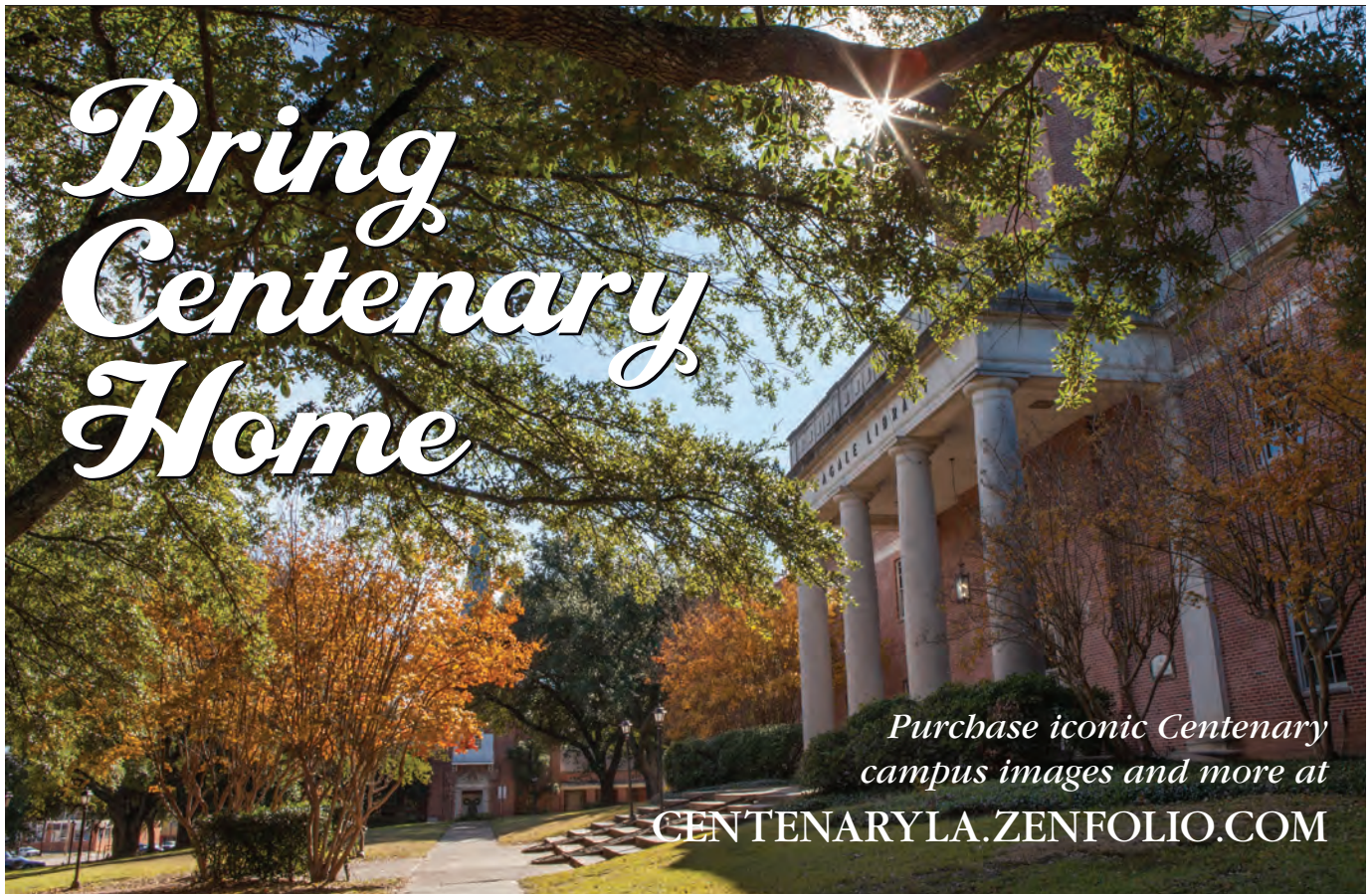
“I’d submit that one of scouting’s

greatest values is that it provides a model of success in which steady work, over a period of several years, leads to the achievement of worthy goals,” said Jones.

Marc Braden’s success at reviving interest in scouting in several local Shreveport chapters indicates that there are still effective avenues for engaging youth and families in a program that is committed to maintaining a focus on traditional character development while also adapting itself to meet the challenges of a 21st century world that would be virtually unrecognizable to the organization’s early 20th century founders. In this environment, the safe place and personal connections provided by scouting can be crucial and transformative.

## The Future

Whether challenges manifest themselves in changing cultural landscapes or stem from the struggle to maintain relevance in a youth environment in which skill at video games is far more prized than skill at knot-tying, the century-old BSA program will continue to experience critical moments of re-evaluation and re-calibration. For lifelong scouts like Marc Braden and Steve Jones as well as more recent adult volunteers like Leah Muslow, the meaningful life experiences embedded in scouting make this process well worth the effort. ■







## ASK THE EXPERT

## ASK THE EXPERT



### What is the core of the BSA leadership model, and how is it applicable in other contexts?

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) have provided opportunities for leadership development and education to young males for over a century. Through their progressive system of badges

and ranks, participants have the chance to earn the distinction of Eagle Scout, which is the culmination of many years of work. Not only do those hoping to achieve the rank of Eagle have to earn badges and ascend the tiered ranks of scouting, but they also must develop a service project, attend a conference, and complete a board of review. This is an impressive and comprehensive program that imparts upon the scout the importance of gaining knowledge, helping others, and making a difference in the world.

It is this same foundation that we strive to create here at Centenary with the Centenary Leadership model, as we ask our students to Connect, Commit, Lead, and Grow and push them to understand how they can improve themselves, others, and the world. These four concepts are not simply buzzwords, but an intentional progression through personal development.

For example, in terms of student involvement, we first want students to try many different organizations and **connect** to campus in meaningful ways. Next we want them to really think

critically about where their passion and skills overlap, and **commit** to a few things, be it athletics, or an organization, and serve as a contributing and dedicated member. The next step is for them to identify ways they can **lead** their peers, be it as a positional leader, or as a role model. Finally, we urge students to **grow** others by making sure that they, as now developed leaders, provide development and guidance to the students who are coming up behind them.

We also ask our students to view their leadership as it relates to self, others, and world. It is not enough to have personal development if you do not then take what you have learned and employ those skills in your relationships with others, and then use what you have learned to improve the world. The BSA has the same paradigm: members of scouting are not simply learning skills in a vacuum, they are developing themselves so they can then go out in the world and lead by deed, and by example.

Although the Boy Scouts of America pioneered a successful and encompassing leadership program for youth that has practical applications for other arenas, it is of this former Venture Scout's opinion that they have a lot to learn from the Girl Scouts regarding snacks, as Thin Mints are far superior to caramel corn. But let's not hold that against them!

*Ashlie Daigle '04 is Director of Student Involvement at Centenary and spent several summers working at Boy Scout camps, where she taught merit badges.*

## ENGAGE

### Meaningful Life

## ENGAGE

Check out some of the BSA's recent research on ethnic and generational diversity:

<http://www.scouting.org/About/Research/StrategicPlanResearch.aspx>

Eagle Scouts have their own alumni association. Learn about scholarships and notable Eagles at their home on the web:

<http://www.nesa.org>

Scouting truly encircles the world. The World Organization of the Scout Movement is a confederation of more than 162 national scout organizations, including the BSA:

<http://www.scout.org/>



## A FINAL WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Recent stories of refugees fleeing their war-torn homes, the challenges of feeding growing populations around the world, and the travels of the leader of the Roman Catholic Church have brought into focus some of the many issues facing our world as we begin to hit our stride here in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The answers to global questions may be found in exploring outer space (perhaps with an assist from Michael Poole '02), in building green (following the lead of Brown '71 and Nancy '70 Word), or in training the next generations to continue these conversations (under the guidance of professors such as Matt Murphy). Or, the answers may be found in a location or discipline we have yet to discover.

Expect to see our Centenary students, faculty, and graduates at the center of these questions and answers. From the immersive ***Centenary in Paris*** curriculum to experiences as part of our campus World Houses, Centenary students learn quickly that biology, engineering, mathematics, and other disciplines demand a global perspective. Students experience first-hand that medical research in Atlanta has implications in Addis Ababa, engineering a better building in Dallas leads to more stable structures in Damascus, and 10-year-olds in Plaquemine are just as puzzled by geometry as 10-year-olds in Paris. Global studies are integrated across the Centenary College curriculum, student activities, and often into College events.

Especially valuable are our partnerships with colleges, universities, and organizations around the world who share our passion and our vision for providing global experiences to students. I recently had the privilege of visiting the Université des Antilles, in the French West Indies. President Corinne Mencé-Caster and I signed an agreement for a student exchange program with possibilities for additional collaborations among our students, faculty, and staff. This agreement is one of more than a dozen agreements Centenary has with colleges and universities around the world. At any given time of the year, you will find Centenary students somewhere around the globe enhancing their Centenary experience and making the world a better place.

Centenary College is not the first to emphasize international education, but we have jumped to the forefront in making sure a global perspective is part of each student's Centenary experience. Because of this commitment, Centenary students will be ready to seize their roles in the never-ending task of protecting, preserving, and celebrating these wonderful creations called Earth and humanity.

Take care,

B. David Rowe, Ph.D.

David Rowe is the 30<sup>th</sup> President of Centenary College of Louisiana



*The Paul Marvin Brown, Jr. Society*

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